Glad Tidings

January/February 2007

Contents

Features

4 **Guatemala Journals** . . . . . .

11 **Focus on...Guatemala** . . . . . .

13 **Sharing Mayan Spirituality** . . . . *Jessica Henderson*

15 **SOYNICA** . . . . . *Denise Van Wissen*

18 **ABCs Meet the Fruits of the Spirit** . *Shauna Whitford*

21 **To be Alone With God** . . . . . *Edward Mason*

22 **Test the Waters** . . . . . *Joanna Mallory*

24 **Celebrating Forty Years of the Ordination of Women to Ministry in The Presbyterian Church in Canada** . . . . . *Rev. Maureen Walter*

28 **Choir Tours Newfoundland** . . . . . *Katherine Allen*

29 **Teach us to Pray Word Search - A Puzzle** . . . . . *Jim Phillips*

33 **Officers and Executive Members** . . . . . .

36 **Revitalizing Your Group** . . . . . *Alexis McKeown*

38 **God's Love Built a Bridge** . . . . . *Szabó Árpád Csaba*

Regulars

3 **Editor's Thoughts** . . . . . .

30 **Reviews** . . . . . .

32 **Forward in Faith** . . . . . *Wilma Welsh*

34 **Mission in Action** . . . . . *MacKay Family*

40 **In the Society** . . . . . .

46 **Circulation News** . . . . . *Katherine Allen*

47 **In Remembrance** . . . . . .

Cover photo:Myan woman weaving, Jessica Henderson

Glad Tidings

January/February 2007
Volume 83, No. 1

EDITOR
SONYA HENDERSON
DESIGN
ALEXIS McKEOWN
CIRCULATION MANAGER
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to the circulation department at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7. Phone (416) 441-1111. Fax (416) 441-2825. E-mail Editorial hwilson@presbyterian.ca. Circulation kallen@presbyterian.ca. Publications mail registration number 09517. ISSN: 00170720.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

Canada

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

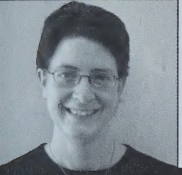
Subscription rate $12.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $2.00. WMS members should send their subscriptions through their group *Glad Tidings* Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from *Glad Tidings*. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to *Glad Tidings*.

Glad Tidings reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

Glad Tidings challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

Glad Tidings through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GladTidings provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.



Sonya Henderson

Editor's Thoughts

Epiphany means "to show," "to make known," or "to reveal." We mark it by remembering the coming of the wise men who brought gifts to the Christ child. Through their visit, they "revealed" Jesus as Lord to the world. Epiphany marks a special time in our church when we focus on Christian fellowship and the mission of the church in which we reach out by "showing" Jesus to others.

Another meaning for epiphany is "a realization, or an illuminating discovery." Through showing Jesus to others, we enable them to have an epiphany of their own.

Glad Tidings is an Epiphany magazine. It is a forum in which we show the work of the Women's Missionary Society at both local and international levels. This work enables epiphanies not only for others, but also for ourselves.

In May, a small group of women represented the WMS and went to Guatemala a mission trip. There, they experienced an epiphany—an illuminating discovery. Upon their return, they were humbled by their experiences and revelations and were eager to share with others. I hope you enjoy this issue of Glad Tidings in which we focus on the group's reflections and epiphanies of their trip.

Action is another way of revealing Jesus to others and to ourselves. Friday, March 2 is World Day of Prayer. "World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together on the first Friday of March to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm their faith in Jesus Christ and become aware of the whole world; are enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures; share the burdens of other people and pray with them and for them; become aware of their own talents and use them in the service of God's world. Prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world." (World Day of Prayer 2007, WICC, p. 5)

This year's World Day of Prayer is written by the women of Paraguay and is entitled "United Under God's Tent." Join Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and 2,000 communities across Canada who will gather on the World Day of Prayer to pray and act in solidarity with the people of Paraguay.

To obtain more information, a leadership guide, and the World Day of Prayer service, contact the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada at 416-929-5184 or by e-mail at wicc@wicc.org.

Guatemala

Back row (left to right): Denise Van Wissen, Joan Smith, Mary Lou McKay, Margaret McGillivray, Joan Hilliard, Elizabeth Watkins, Joanne Watson

Front row (left to right): Five hosts, Dania Del Valle and Alexis McKeown

One participant noted: "The WMS, PCC, and PWS&D are partnered with great organizations in Guatemala. It was amazing to see the work being done through development work, and the projects in education and training."

From Friday, May 19 to May 29, a group of nine women travelled on a Women's Missionary Society (WMS) exposure tour to Guatemala. Participants not only got to experience the culture and history of this country but were able to witness firsthand the work that is being done in Guatemala through The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC), Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D), and the WMS.

The following excerpts are taken from the participants' travel journals.

Friday, May 19

It was bright and sunny when we were met by Denise Van Wissen and Ken Kim, both International Ministries staff, Dania Del Valle from the Centre of Evangelical Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA), and Raul Olivia (our driver). We enjoyed a tour of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, which outlined the early histories of the Mayan peoples and the country of Guatemala. In the evening, we enjoyed dinner with Ken Kim and his family.

Ken Kim with a community member supported by CEIDEC

Journals

Saturday, May 20

We were up at 5:00 a.m. to prepare for our three-hour drive to meet our partners from the Centre for Integral Studies and Community Development (CEIDEC) in Retalhuleu. We drove through rolling hills, lush vegetation, and the sweet, smoky smell of burning sugar cane. We met some amazing women and got our first taste of the warm Guatemalan hospitality that Ken Kim had told us about.

Our hosts live in a planned community on an abandoned coffee plantation. It is unique and notable that land here was granted to both men and women. It is also unique that the community has actually planned lots for dwellings, schools, churches, and other buildings. The first years were difficult, but the women are proud of what they have accomplished and have great plans and hopes for the future! I admired their grit and determination, but wondered how they would manage to pay off their debts, and educate their children with their meagre earnings from their vegetable plots and chickens. Few families in the community can afford to send their children to middle school and even fewer to secondary school. Luis Rodriguez (CEIDEC) hopes to give young people the incentive to plan for a future. Many of the youth leave for the United States, others end up in trouble. Mayli Amarilis Lopez Chavez, the president of the youth organization, impressed us with her confidence and optimism. I began to think that perhaps there is hope after all.

Members of the Mayan community supported by the Fraternidad Maya

Sunday, May 21

We are fortunate to visit the centuries-old ruins of an ancient Mayan village at Retalhuleu (near the Pacific Coast) where we learned about the ancient culture and history of

the people. The area is beautiful and tropical with jungle foliage and beautiful birds. In the afternoon, we headed to Quetzaltenango in the mountains of Guatemala. This is when the fun began. We discovered what the rainy season in Guatemala actually means—washed-out roads and bridges, mudslides, and detours. Ken Kim led the way in his car and we followed in the minibus. The largest of the detours was a muddy, winding country road with no gravel or guardrails. This road, sometimes only a single lane, saw as much traffic congestion as the 401. Our fantastic driver, Raul Olivia, was amazing as he negotiated hair-pin turns, clung to the edge of the precipices, and drove through the mud and water. We all marvelled at Raul's abilities and gave him a round of applause when we returned to the paved highway. What a wonderful fellow!

Monday, May 22

Our day began with the smell of Guatemalan coffee and a two-hour drive. We met the leaders of the Fraternidad Maya, and learned about the women and their projects. Mayan women have been violated and exploited for over 500 years. Although there is no conflict now, much injustice still exists, and poverty is growing worse. The women's vision is to train as catalysts for change and to create a better future through education and health programs. They also provide training in handcraft projects, such as weaving, sewing, and gardening. The women can then use these skills to augment their income.

"With such adversities, trials, and tribulations, the Mayan people smile. They pick themselves up and cope the best they can."

Quilt presented to the Fraternidad Maya. Quilted by Hazel McCreath and Glenda Salter, Knox Goderich Quilting Group.

We met Director Catarina Morales who had been at the WMS council meeting at Crieff earlier in May. This Fraternidad is an organization of about 3,000 Mayan Christian women in Guatemala. PCC supports the development of programs while the United Church of Canada (UCC) supports the office expenses. The Rev. Val Cottrill, a UCC minister, has been working with the women for a year and a half.

Julianna Santos amazed us. She is a widow who has had no formal education. Julianna led a Bible study about the women who were the last to leave the

"We have a lot to learn from the Fraternidad and their views on spirituality. They see God in everything and treat everything with respect. They work with the earth but try not to damage and pollute. They work with many different people and try to find the peace in every one of them. This is our challenge as Christians in Canada."

crucified Christ and the first to arrive at the empty tomb. We joined with the women of the centre in an exercise that showed how each part of the body contributes to the whole. Both exercises were very visual.

We travelled by minibus to meet the second group called Naomi. After we enjoyed the hot meal they had prepared for us, Ms. Cottrill led the singing and a Bible study about the creation of women. The Mayan women had made woven wall hangings for each of us. As they presented them to us, we hugged them. It made us feel like sisters.

Tuesday, May 23

On the second day with the Fraternidad Maya, we visited two communities of indigenous Mam women. We travelled along the mountainous, partially washed-out road in a small 4x4 truck. Some of us were either crushed in the back seat or back in the bed of the truck. What an exhilarating and rejuvenating experience! Thank goodness for the expert driving of Catarina Morales.

It was a humbling experience to listen to these shy women of varying ages. They were dressed in their traditional hand-woven dresses and expressed their thanks for our visit and financial support. They are part of a revolving, interest-free funding program, which enables them to produce handicrafts to sustain their families—a project supported by the PCC. Many of the women are single mothers, widows, or divorcees and do not receive aid from the government. The married women's husbands work growing vegetables, such as corn, potatoes, and small crops of coffee.

What impressed me about this experience was witnessing the strong faith of the Mam women and hearing words of hope in spite of so many difficulties—sloped and dangerous farm land, hurricanes, landslides, polluted waters, and isolation. Many cannot read or write. The women we met in the second community could only speak their native "Toj alic" language. One woman learned Spanish in order to translate. In spite of their poverty, they still gave us gifts of their handiwork, hot rice milk, and cookies.

Ms. Cottrill led a beautiful communion service. She used water and tortillas as the elements which give life to the Mayan people each day, just as God does. In her mediation of Ruth 1:1–16, Ms. Cottrill stated that the relationship between Ruth and Naomi was much like the relationship between the WMS and the Fraternidad Maya.

"...ire adonte tu vagus, y vivre donde tu vivas.

Tu pueblo sera mi pueblo, y tu Dios sera mi Dios." Ruth 1:16

"It was great to have a few opportunities to study with women from another county, culture, and language. It is amazing how similar women around the world are."

Wednesday, May 24

We left the Quetzaltenango area and ascended further into the mountains to Panajachel, a town on the shores of volcanic Lake Atitlan. It began as a bright and beautiful sunny day but as the rain started, we all scrambled for umbrellas and raincoats. We had planned a shopping trip at the market. Right! We WMS members rose to the challenge and managed to sightsee and purchase some local crafts despite the weather.

Thursday, May 25

This morning we travelled by boat across Lake Atitlan to Santiago Atitlan, the largest lakeside community with over 32,000 people. A truck waited to take us up the hill to the community of Panajab. Two people rode with the driver while the rest stood in the back of the truck. On the ride up, we saw women doing their wash along the shore of the lake. We stopped at a small memorial park where church services can now be held. The site wasn't always a place of worship. In 1989, army personnel from the base across the road massacred 13 people (including children). The base is now a coffee plantation under the direction of the community. We continued on to see the new hospital and school, which were both closed. In November 2005, Hurricane Stan created a devastating river of mud, which came down from the surrounding mountain and washed away most of the village. The dirt and

Damage done to the hospital by Hurricane Stan

mud had buried the hospital and school up to the windows.

In Santiago Atitlan, we visited the Church of Saint James the Apostle, which was opened by the Franciscans in 1568. It was interesting to see the mixture of Mayan and Catholic symbols decorating the church.

We then went to see Maximon, a Mayan god which is kept on public display in the town. Maximon was worshipped with offerings of tobacco and alcohol because he is known for granting favours. He is fond of good things—like silk scarves and ties. While we were there, a gentleman kept placing cigars in and out of the god's mouth.

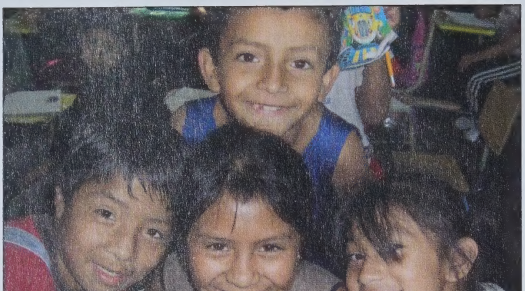
Friday, May 26

We rose early on Friday and had a Guatemalan breakfast of fried beans and tortilla with scrambled eggs and red pepper. We boarded the bus at 7:30 a.m. so we would be at the Franscisco Coll Middle School while the children were in their classrooms. I wondered what it would be like to meet children who lived in a garbage dump and collected garbage in order to survive. Sister Alba, the principal, greeted us as we looked around at the wide, clean space. We were introduced to Altagracia, a helper, who led us on a walking tour of the neighbourhood and dump. We went to a field where Dominican student volunteers were organizing a tug of war. I joined on the girls' side and we won!!! I was struck by the poverty and the small shacks that were people's homes. I caught glimpses of garbage that was sorted into piles of plastic and metal. The smell was pervasive, though the people were neat and tidy in their small spaces. A while later, the games on the field had to stop because of the sound of gun shots.

We spent some time looking at the gates to the dump. I couldn't imagine existing by eating meals from restaurant garbage day after day. No wonder the children are often sick with respiratory infections. My stomach churned as we headed back to the school. There, we were invited to visit each classroom, shake the children's hands, and wave "ohla." One child gave me a big hug. She felt very dear. It was a moment close to Christ.

"Children everywhere should be allowed to be children—to learn, explore, and develop."

After the school, we visited CEDEP-CA. We had become somewhat familiar with the organization because Ken Kim and Dania Del Valle work there. It is a Non-Government Organization (NGO) and interdenominational in nature. We visited a class of women who were taking a course called "To be a Woman is Marvelous." There were 15 or so women around a table and they made room for us. The women told us that they felt the course had helped them develop an appreciation of themselves as women, to see themselves as strong and worthy of holistic self-care.



Students from Franscisco Coll Middle School.

Judith Castaneda, the General Coordinator,, spoke to us and provided us all with copies of their annual report, which gives an excellent overview of the staff and programs for both men and women. We had a wonderful lunch and time of fellowship with the group. It was like a warm wind of God. The day ended back at our hotel with a devotion, papaya, tamale, and tortilla. Praise God!

Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28

Our last two days before travelling back to Canada were spent exploring what Antigua, a historic colonial tourist city, had to offer. We visited colonial ruins, a monastery, church, and school. It was interesting to see a colonial site after first visiting Mayan ruins. Dania Del Valle was a great tour guide. She mentioned that she had visited the site many times in her school days. The rest of our free time was spent walking the streets, spending money in markets, eating ice cream, resting, reflecting, and digesting the many things we had seen and learned while in Guatemala. Many of us spent our last quetzal (Guatemala currency). Some had to rearrange their suitcases in order to bring home the many amazing gifts and purchases.

Focus on...Guatemala

Facts

Population:	12,293,545
Capital:	Guatemala City
Land Use:	arable land: 13.22% permanent crops: 5.6% other: 81.18% (2005)
Area:	108,889 sq. km. A land of mountains, volcanoes, and lakes. Mexico's southern neighbour.
People:	Spanish-speaking Latinos 43% Amerindian 54% Afro-Caribbean 2% Other 1%
Monetary Unit:	1 quetzal (Q) = 100 centavos
Literacy:	male: 62.5%, female: 48.6% (1995 est.)

A Brief History

The Maya civilization flourished in Guatemala and surrounding regions during the first millennium A.D. After almost three centuries as a Spanish colony, Guatemala won its independence in 1821. During the second half of the 20th century, it experienced a variety of military and civilian governments, as well as a 36-year guerrilla war. In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the conflict, which had left more than 100,000 people dead and created some 1 million refugees.

Religion

Official separation of Church and state for over 100 years has given great freedom for Evangelicals and increased their influence at the expense of the hitherto dominant Catholic Church. Over 25% of those classified in the census as Catholics are basically Christo-pagan with Mayan gods becoming Catholic 'saints'.

Christian 97.52%; Non-Religious/other 1.90%; Traditional ethnic 0.30%; Baha'i 0.20%; Buddhist 0.06%; Chinese 0.02%

Environment

Environmental issues include deforestation, soil erosion, water pollution, and threats from hurricanes.

Economy

The agricultural sector accounts for one-fourth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), two-thirds of exports, and half of the labor force. Coffee, sugar, and bananas are the main

products. Manufacturing and construction account for one-fifth of the GDP. The signing of the peace accords in December 1996, which ended 36 years of civil war, removed a major obstacle to foreign investment. Remaining challenges include beefing up government revenues, negotiating further assistance from international donors, and increasing the efficiency and openness of both government and private financial operations.

Politics

Guatemala gained independence from Spain in 1821, and from the Federation of Central American States in 1838. After which it was controlled by a few plantation owners through a series of dictatorships and military governments. The poor, particularly the Mayans, suffered years of indignity and deprivation. This led to an uprising which exploded in 1960 and resulted in 36 years of guerrilla war with around 200,000 deaths, mainly at the hands of the US-armed military. The human rights record during those years was appalling with over 40,000 'disappearances', widespread torture and displacement of one million internal and 250,000 international refugees. The 1996 peace agreement ended the warfare but has not been fully implemented by the authorities. There remains a culture of violence in the country and cynicism about the government. Oscar Berger was voted President in November, 2003.

Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) in Guatemala

The PCC has worked in Guatemala since 1985, when Joe Reed was appointed as Area Missionary to help minister to war-torn Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Ken Kim has worked in Guatemala from 1995 to 2006 and he was involved in human rights, peace building, development, and relief. Ken was last assigned to CEDEPCA, an ecumenical pastoral training centre where we hope to continue to strengthen ties.

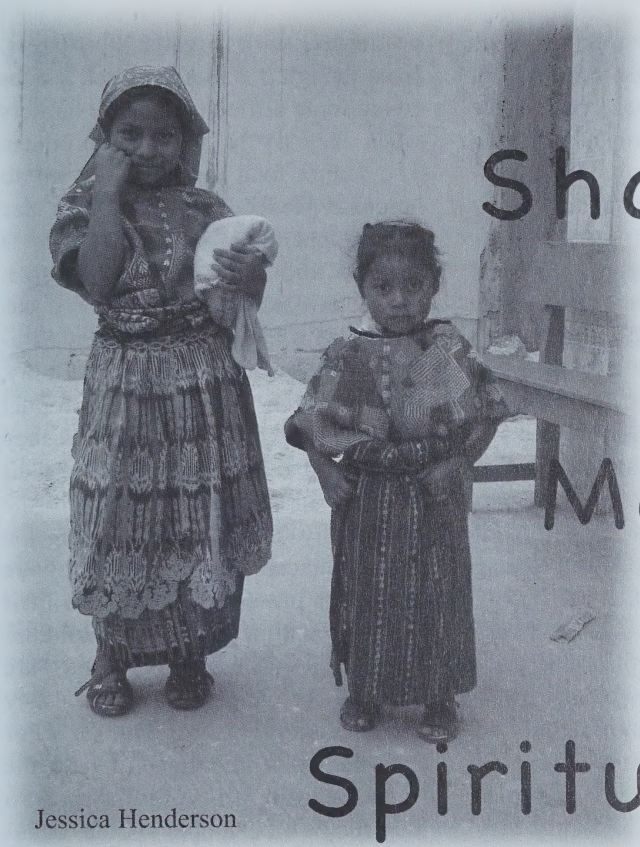
Challenges for Prayer

Pray for the safety of the Mayan people who live on hillsides where heavy rains or hurricanes are a constant threat.

Recognition of the wrongs committed against the indigenous population over 500 years, and reconciliation after a generation of war with atrocities on both sides have to be faced and carried through to closure of the past. There must be recognition of the multi-cultural character of the country. Christians have an essential role in this. Pray especially for evangelical leaders from both Mayan and Spanish-speaking communities as they work toward the healing of the nation.

Mayan culture has had a re-birth with the recovery of their ancient civilization (science, mathematics, and writings) which emerged during the war. For some, this has led to a resurrection of the old, long-submerged Mayan religion, but to others a blossoming of indigenous Christianity with the many new translations of the Bible in their languages. Churches among the Mam, Quiche, Kekchi, and others have grown rapidly and there has been outreach to every tribe. Pray for these churches to become mature, effectively-led, and a vital contribution to the Church in the nation.

From Operation World CD-ROM, Copyright ©2001 Patrick Johnstone
CIA Factbook: http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/gt.html



Sharing Mayan Spirituality

Jessica Henderson

"La tierra está muriendo de cancer"—the earth is dying of cancer, says Catarina Morales, "pero todavía hay esperanza"—but there is still hope. Catarina is the executive director of Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas (Women's Network of Maya Presbyterials), an organization of Mayan Christian women in Guatemala working together to overcome centuries of oppression they continue to face for being women and for being Mayan. Women are empowered, encouraged, and supported through four programs: ministry of women (to prepare women for pastoral ministry), holistic health classes, socio-productive programs, and an education program. Fraternidad is a mission partner of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Recently, Catarina came to Canada to share her work with several congregations and church groups. On May 4, she spoke at the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries about the role that Mayan spirituality plays in Fraternidad's socio-productive projects. These projects include agricultural training and teaching

of traditional handicrafts, such as weaving and embroidery. By selling extra produce and their crafts, the women become important economic contributors to their families and communities thereby improving their quality of life.

In the past, Mayan people thanked God for the noonday sun. This tradition has all but died out, according to Catarina. During agricultural classes, Catarina and her team encourage women to look to their Mayan roots to recuperate traditional values. According to Mayan tradition, all of the elements are living and need to be nourished. It is important to thank God for allowing each seed to be planted, for the earth, sun, and the four points of the compass (representing air, water, fire, and earth), all of which contribute to plant growth. By reclaiming their spirituality and recognizing the presence of God in all creation, the women learn to live in harmony with the earth. Later, they transmit this respect to their children.

Mayan farmers are also taught to respect the earth by replacing harmful pesticides with organic fertilizers. Even though it is more natural, it does create some difficulties for the farmers when they try to sell their produce. The major food companies want to purchase produce that is larger in size and weight. The organic produce is smaller and more natural in size. However, Catarina says, it is more satisfactory for the Mayans to grow natural products for two reasons: Firstly, they can feel proud that the product they are growing is healthy as they will feed this nourishing food to their families and other members of the community. Secondly, by ridding the land of cancerous chemicals, they are helping to preserve the earth for their children, and their children's children.

Mayan spirituality and values are not only for indigenous people—they are transferable to others. For Catarina, it is important to help the Mayans regain respect for the earth so they can be an example to other countries and people. They can show that there is hope in stopping the earth from dying of cancer.

SOYNICA—Soybeans to Food Security

Denise Van Wissen

Soynica. This is the shorter and commonly used name of the *Soya Association of Nicaragua*. In Spanish, it's also a play on words, meaning "I'm Nicaraguan." Often, when people ask me where I work and I reply, "Soynica," they look at me in a funny way as if to say, "No, you're not!" I began working as a volunteer with SOYNICA in 1992. It's been exciting to be a part of SOYNICA's ever changing response to the Nicaraguan people through their Food & Nutritional Security program for the past 14 years. SOYNICA has been a partner of Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) since 1992. SOYNICA North's Food and Nutritional Security program also receives funding from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and European organizations.

SOYNICA's Beginnings...

Just a few months after the triumph of the Sandinista Revolution in 1979, Luci Morren, a Belgian nun, came to Nicaragua. Luci was aware of the high level of malnutrition among young children, so she gathered and trained a group of dedicated women from different areas of the country in soybean preparation techniques. These women travelled and taught other groups of women, and of course, their own friends and neighbours.

In 1988–89, after Hurricane Joan, there was a diarrhea epidemic. In the small and marginalized neighbourhood of Pantasma alone, seven infants died within a week. Luci and her team stepped in to help the mothers of Pantasma. In 1990, they began the first "Community Pot", where the children received a nutritious daily soy-meal,

A group of "Now Network" promoters and leaders

and their mothers learned about healthy nutrition.

The "Community Pot" idea caught on like wildfire. Within a couple of years, SOYNICA had 52 "Community Pots" in the same number of neighbourhoods! At first, only malnourished children received the extra meal. But with the support of a government initiative, the program was opened up to all the neighbourhood children under the age of seven, as well as pregnant and nursing mothers.

In its continual evaluation, however, SOYNICA staff noticed a need to provide an educational component for these young children. In the mid-90s, they started a preschool program for three- to five-year-olds. In most cases, the neighbourhood "Community Pot" became a preschool. As the "Community Pots" before them, the preschools were a great success. By the late 90s, there were more than 30.

"Improving a child's health begins at home, and the secret to long-term success is educating mothers"

Does this mean that the women of SOYNICA left their work with soybeans behind? By no means! In an effort to help subsidize SOYNICA's social programming and to promote consumption of soy-based foods to all economic strata, a small factory was established. Casa NUTREM has now been producing soy milk, tofu, soy sausage, and many other tasty soy foods for 12 years. The major supermarket chains carry their products.

Despite the success of the preschools, SOYNICA wanted a more direct contact with mothers of very young children in order to improve their health and nutrition. To this end, an Early Development pilot program was started in six barrios in 2002. Volunteer 'promoters' from each barrio ran afternoon sessions from Monday through Thursday. On one day, the 'promoters' met with mothers of newborns to six-month-olds, six-month to one-year-olds on the second day, one-year-olds and toddlers the third day, and pregnant women on the fourth day. In total, each promoter worked with about 25 mothers and their babies each week.

There are currently 44 Early Development groups in 26 barrios of Managua (almost all barrios have two 'promoters' and their respective groups.)

The Early Development 'promoters' participate with other women leaders in the RED AHORA ("Now Network"). One hundred and twenty women receive training in diverse topics including gender issues, such as self-esteem and domestic violence, citizen participation and municipal law, consumers' rights, and of course, nutrition.

Helping women earn their own income was the reason behind SOYNICA's communal banking scheme based on the Grameen Bank model. Since 1994, it has grown and expanded

continually. Currently, it has loans to well over 2,000 individuals (95% women) in about 50 community banks.

After four years working with the "Community Pots" and teaching nutrition classes to the mothers, I was ready to go back to school myself. So, it was off to Guatemala to learn more about nutrition at the Central American Nutrition Institute's Masters program (this with much-appreciated help from the WMS!). Upon completion, I was appointed as a missionary of the PCC, and I returned to work with SOYNICA, this time, to its new program in the northern rural areas of Nicaragua.

We had just started to work with campesino (small farmer) families in several communities before Hurricane Mitch struck, late in 1998. The work continued, and in 2000, the Food and Nutritional Security program as it's now known, began. SOYNICA North has a team of 9 female agronomists and nutrition promoters working with about 400 families in 36 rural communities. The objective is for the families to grow food for varied and healthy meals. This means starting to cultivate many different fruits and vegetables, as well as their traditional staples of corn and beans. Apart from the shortage of fertile land, the main difficulty for these small farmers is the lack of water. SOYNICA has helped most families dig wells and install underground cisterns to store rainwater in the rainy season.

SOYNICA is a founding member of Nicaragua's Food and Nutritional Security Interest Group (GISSAN), a civil society lobbying group. GISSAN is working to have the Food and Nutritional Security law passed by the National Assembly. There are national elections in Nicaragua this year and GISSAN is working hard to raise awareness and have the presidential candidates deal with this essential topic.

SOYNICA's adaptations and changes in focus over the years are a product of many influences. The world of development work is constantly progressing, incorporating new experiences and ideas, and SOYNICA has tried to learn from other successful programs. It's important, too, that non-governmental organizations (NGO) try to keep up with the donors' suggestions for improvements and modifications.

There are still many feeding programs for children both here in Nicaragua and in other countries, but SOYNICA learned that improving a child's health *begins at home*, and the secret to **long**-term success is educating mothers and helping them find ways to better provide for their families.

In SOYNICA's 27 years of existence, tremendous progress has been made in education, nutrition, agricultural training, income generation, and gender issue education. Yet here in Nicaragua we're well aware that there's still plenty of work to be done. It is SOYNICA's goal to continue to change, grow, and work in order to adequately address the needs of the people in Nicaragua.

ABCs Meet the Fruits of the Spirit

Shauna Whitford

This September marked the beginning of my third year as an elementary school teacher. I sometimes pinch myself and wonder how it is I ended up in the front of a classroom and writing on the whiteboard as opposed to sitting in one of the small classroom chairs and listening intently to the teacher. Memories of my own time in elementary school are still fresh in my mind. I have fond memories of my time at these schools, my teachers, and my fellow classmates in three public schools in the north end of Winnipeg.

I am not teaching at a public school, however, but at an independent school called Calvin Christian School. I am often asked about the differences I perceive between public schools and an independent, or private, Christian school. Christian schools include the added daily elements of prayer, daily devotions, and praise songs. The question then is: Does adding these elements to a normal school day make a classroom a Christian one? Enter with me to Classroom 4B at a Calvin Christian School in Winnipeg and compare this classroom to your own school experiences, or the experiences of siblings, children, or grandchildren.

Every morning in Class 4B, the teacher and students come together in their "meeting corner." It is a special time and place for devotion and prayer. They take time to look at scripture, sing together, read from devotionals, and pray.

"I'd like to pray for my Grand-dad. He just had more chemo and he is not feeling very well. I want to pray that he can feel better and that we will have a good visit when we go to see him during the summer."

"I wanna pray that Dad will have a safe flight to California for business."

"Can we pray for the people that were hurt and are missing after the hurricane in the United States?"

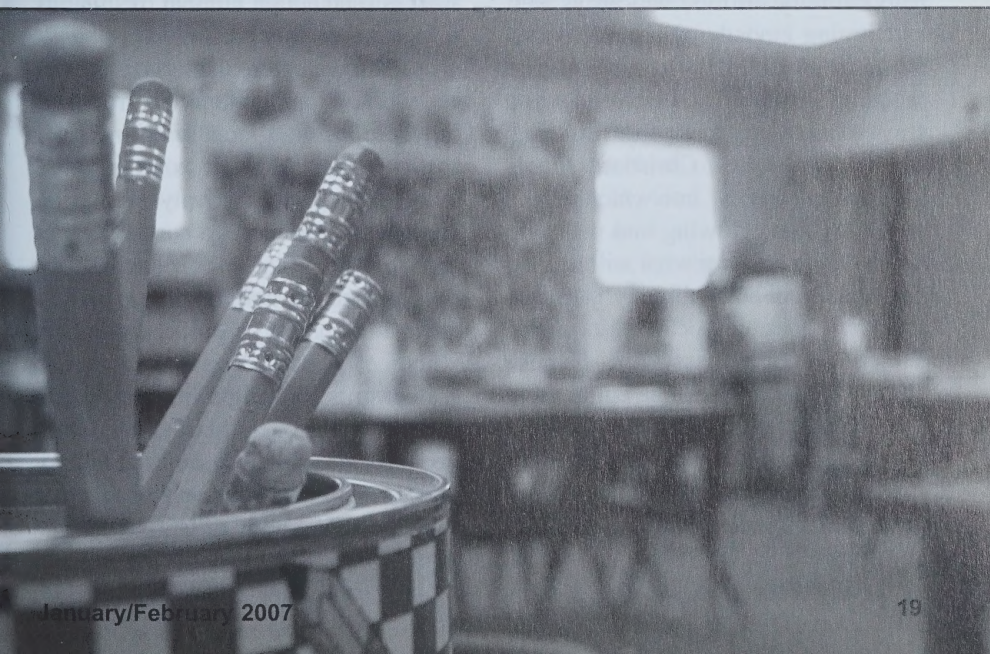
These are just a few of the prayer requests that flood the classroom each morning. What a beautiful time as they sit together and listen to the concerns on the heart of each student. It is amazing how aware they are of what is going on in the world, in the school

community, and in their own homes. After prayer requests are shared, they take time to pray—whether through 'popcorn' prayer, silently, or in partners. Each day begins by focusing on God and making God a central part of the day through the devotion and prayer time.

In his book entitled *The Craft of Christian Teaching*, John Van Dyk states, "…teaching is driven by what you believe, by what you consider to be important and valuable." A Christian teacher centres his or her life on the belief of Jesus Christ as the Lord and Saviour. How is that belief reflected in the classroom…and what makes that classroom different from others? In a Christian classroom, everything that is done will be laced and intertwined with the belief in Jesus Christ. Choices in the way the classroom is set up, in the way that the lessons are taught, and in the actual lessons all reflect the belief in the importance of community and being a part of the Body of Christ.

In Class 4B, the teacher begins and ends the year by reading the passage from 1 Corinthians 12: 12–27: "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body…" Each student is unique and has different God-given gifts and talents. They bring these talents and gifts to the classroom and share them with one another. Part of the teacher's job is to reveal, receive, encourage, and affirm each student's gifts so they can thrive and become an active member in the body of Christ.

As well as learning the provincial curriculum, students in Class 4B are provided with the opportunities to be disciples within the classroom and



their school. The classroom is set up to encourage students to show compassion as they work together. They learn to encourage one another's gifts, to support one another in their struggles, and to celebrate their successes. Students are encouraged to consider the words in Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." The teacher's goal is to provide an environment and resources for learning. They will allow students time to absorb what they have experienced. When working on assignments, students often seek the approval of their teacher or parents. But they need to have intrinsic motivation, goals of their own, and learning which refers back to the verse found in Colossians.

Typical school issues, such as bullying, are faced with Christian principles in Class 4B. Students are taught about responsibility for their actions as well as learning empathy and forgiveness. Sometimes parents choose to send their children to a Christian school as a way to shelter them from today's society. Some view Christian schools as "perfect bubbles" into which people can place their growing and maturing child. Others wonder what will happen when the students' bubble is "popped" and the shock of society hits them. The goal within Class 4B is to raise students' awareness of the culture that is a part of our everyday lives. Society influences students by pushing them towards independence, competition, consumerism, and materialism. Christian teachers address society from God's point of view thereby encouraging the to be *in* the world, but not *of* the world.

Some of the challenges facing Christian schools—and families—include financial issues. Christian schools do not have the same government funding as public schools and must charge tuition for their students. Families must choose to send their children to free public schools or to commit to the investment of a child's future in a Christian-learning environment. Lack of funding also means that it is common to find a Christian school using the resources of a neighbouring public school, or that a regular classroom teacher must teach gym. Although these could be viewed as deficits and challenges, it doesn't equate to a lesser education. Christian schools produce talented and skilled elite athletes, provincial champions, as well as send a high number of students to post-secondary education.

When we enter Class 4B, we enter the world of a Christian classroom. It is where the ABCs really do meet the Fruits of the Spirit. It is where God walks through the hallways alongside students and becomes a cornerstone in their life-long learning. It exemplifies a living and learning environment that focuses on glorifying our Lord. It is where each student is called to use his/her gifts, to delight in each other's success, and to help build one another up as we are called to do in the bible, and become an active and productive member of the body of Christ.

To be Alone With God

Edward Mason

One of the most difficult problems of Christian life is to find time during the day to remove oneself from the noise and bustle in order to be with the Lord. It is not easy either to accept the need for spending time late at night, or in the quiet of the early morning, and to be willing to arise to seek God's presence. I often fail in such attempts and on occasion, I even fall asleep again as I pray. Yet, to find oneself in God's presence is one of the most beautiful and comforting experiences that any Christian can have.

Three days ago, I rose early. I turned to reading Donald Coggan's wonderful book, "Paul: Portrait of a Revolutionary." He was discussing Paul's trip to Arabia after "God's revelation of His Son to him." As did Elijah, Amos, John the Baptist, and Jesus, Paul travelled to the quietness and stillness of the desert. In this place, he experienced communion with God for "guidance, strength, and refreshment." In Coggan's introduction, he quoted a remarkable saying of Anselam, Archbishop of Canterbury (1033–1109):

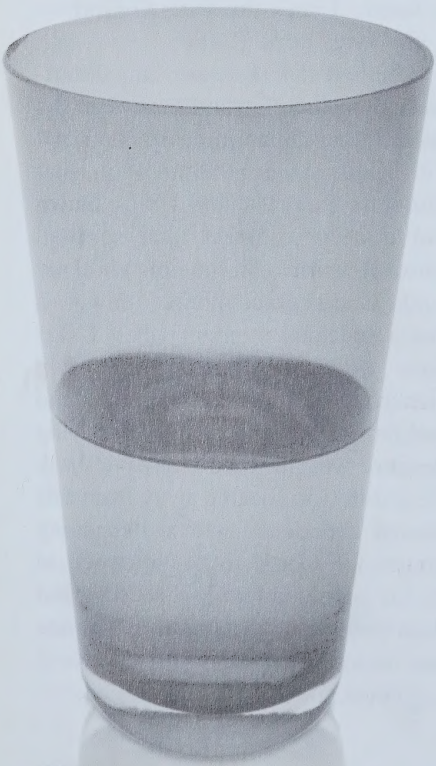
> "Come now, little man, put aside your business for a while, take refuge for a little from your tumultuous thoughts, cast off your cares and let your burdensome distractions wait. Take some leisure for God. Rest a while in Him. Enter into the chamber of your mind—put out everything except God and whatever helps you to seek Him. Close your door and see God. Say now to God with all your heart, 'I seek thy face, O God, thy face I seek'."

I believe that there are "tiny desert-spaces in time" where one can be called to commune in peace and quiet with God. As I meditated on that quotation in my study, I was drawn into a deep, intimate, and spiritual sense of warm communion with my Lord. God's grace poured down. It was a precious moment when I was alone with God. I was completely silenced as I attempted to pray and read further. I realized that God's loving presence was all I could have desired. I rested in God. I came away from this blessed experience with a deepening hunger for God's living presence in my life and thirst for God's desires and plans for me. Indeed, my heart's desire was "to touch the face of God."

Gloria in excelsis, Deo! Amen.

Test the Water

Joanna Mallory



Half-empty or half-full? The proverbial water glass is a perspective which I always considered 'coded' into my personality and one which was strengthened by my experiences. A fact that simply "is" and can't change.

For the record, the glass is not only half-empty—it's leaking. Well, that's what I would have said until recently when my pastor reassured me, "The glass *is* half-full." It wasn't the words that made the difference. I'd heard them before. It was that he offered them as a gentle truth instead of a personal or dogmatic opinion.

How we view the water level in that glass has to depend on something. If I'm thirsty, empty is bad, but full is good. If it's my eighth glass as I prepare for an ultrasound, then empty is good, and full is bad. Part of the perspective depends on our desires and opinions.

Assuming the full glass is ideal, is there more to the decision of half-empty/half-full than who we are? Why do so many of us think it's half-empty? Cynicism, pessimism, serious natures?

I described it as leaking. Hmm, that sounds like fear. When I need that water, it'll be gone. There won't be enough. Don't risk enjoying it now, better save what little might remain until I really need it. Fear is only a symptom. But what happens if we trace it to its source? I won't have enough... water, money, health, whatever. "I won't have it when I need it" means "God won't provide it."

Do you believe that? I don't—not when the lie is stripped of its camouflage and laid bare. It's not even a new lie. Peel off another layer and you get "Did God really say...?" Say He'd provide? Say He'd sustain? Say He'd never leave you?

That's the original lie from the Garden.[1] Eve bought it, and so have I. This changes the picture. If fear says the glass is half-empty, what does God say? The Maker of both water and glass is the same one who promised us living water.[2] God *will* provide, *will* sustain, *will never* leave us nor forsake us.

Well, okay, I know the Bible says those things, and my head believes them. My heart is stuck in fear mode. Is that sin? Maybe. Do I want to stay this way? No. I could give myself a pep talk about trusting God. That might help, but what I really need is to talk to God.

"I believe, help my unbelief."[3] Remember the desperate New Testament father, pleading with Jesus for his son's healing? Jesus didn't turn away in contempt at the man's weakness. He had compassion on him and healed his son. *Jesus, please forgive my unbelief. You know I believe. Help me.*

Jesus saves us from sin, not just from its penalty. I need to ask to be saved from a fearful mindset, confess it as sin, and trust God's promises. "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."[4]

I need to pray and speak this truth to myself each time the old fear reaction kicks in, but God can retrain me. It's like scuffing a new path across a field—it takes repeated journeys. Whatever the situation, God's grace can renew my mind to respond with trust in Him instead of the old way of fearing the circumstances.

A half-full glass has implications: There will be enough, but it's not overflowing. Don't waste it. I'm still responsible to be prudent and a wise steward of the resources God gives. "Careful" is good, but "fearful" or "hoarding" is not. "Prayerful, trusting, and obedient" are best.

When I look at the glass today, be it a real glass of water, my bank balance, my energy level, or a deadline, I choose to see it God's way. God provides the water from a huge reservoir. I choose to submit to God's authority, trust God, raise the glass high and declare, "The glass is half-full."

Then I'll take a drink.

---

[1] Genesis 3:1b

[2] John 7:38

[3] Mark 9:25, NIV(Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.)

[4] John 8:36

Joanna Mallory lives and writes in Atlantic Canada.

Celebrate Forty Years of Ministry in The Presb

Notes for the Leader:
Before the service, choose appropriate hymns (where applicable) and assign five readers.

Materials needed:
1 large candle, matches, smaller candles for each member of the group, and Hymn books (The Book of Praise, 1997)

This service could be used in conjunction with the Power Point Presentation, "Putting Women in Their Place—40 Years of the Ordination of Women" which can be found on the Women in Ministry page of The Presbyterian Church in Canada web site. (www.presbyterian.ca/wim/40years/index.html)

Opening Prayer:
Leader: Holy Spirit, fill us. Let us feel your presence among us here, as we celebrate all those who carry on your ministry in the world. Amen.

Call to Worship:
Leader: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (Genesis 1:1–3 RSV)

(light the candle)

"And God saw that the light was good." (Gen. 1:4a RSV)

We celebrate this sacred creation today. Let us join in worship.

Hymn:
#399 Spirit, Spirit of gentleness or #371 Love divine, all loves excelling

Prayer:
Leader: God our Creator, we praise you for the creation of our good world. You made us whole and good. We have shattered the wholeness of this world. We

Ordination of Women to rian Church in Canada

have separated ourselves from one another by gender, by race, and by creed. We confess our sin and pray for our broken lives and our broken world. We ask for healing. May our darkness be lit by your presence. May our divisions be healed by your Spirit. Amen.

Voice 1: All people, every man and woman, each boy and girl, of every race and nation, were made by God to live together with strength and in harmony.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:26–27 NRSV)

God created us to live in fullness, with love, using our gifts and talents to create a joyful life together, so that we might worship God in Spirit and in truth. That is our divine place and purpose here.

Hymn:
#807 We plough the fields and scatter

Voice 2: History is full of stories of the violent shattering of our divine place and purpose.

Read: Judges 19: 22–30

Let us pray in silence together, remembering the victims of the world who suffer cruelty and violence. So many of them are women—demeaned, violated, and excluded from full participation in deciding how to live their own lives.

(Silence)

We are called to see and hear the shattered places and people of this world. We are called to "Consider it, take counsel, and speak out." (Judges 19:30 NRSV) We are called to pray that those who have been wounded now become empowered to live in the fullness God intended.

Voice 3: God's ministry to a broken world cannot be done by one gender alone.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:27 NRSV)

We are called to ministry, men and women working together, to reflect in some small way the wholeness of God's divine creation of the world.

Voice 4: In June 1966, The Presbyterian Church adopted this statement:

"By the…approval of the recommendation on the ordination of women…the General Assembly has affirmed its conviction that such action is "in obedience to Jesus Christ who is the Word of God as His Will is made known through the witness of the Holy Scriptures, as the Spirit attests the essential content of that witness to the Truth" on this matter, and is in keeping with a true understanding of the faith of our Church,…" (Acts and Proceedings of the 92nd General Assembly, pg. 116, [6706], Answer to Dissent written by Mr. J.E. Sutherland and Dr. Donald C. Smith)

We remember with thankfulness the men of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, who 40 years ago were willing to change their church to include the full participation of women. They answered the call of the Holy Spirit to a fuller and deeper ministry in Christ, by allowing both men and women to exercise all offices within the church. We pray for the Spirit of God to be made known through our ministry as men and women working in the world together. We pray that we will be a sign of hope and light to the world, particularly to all who are victims of violence, warfare, disease, poverty, and exclusion.

Hymn:
#740 Make me a channel of your peace

Voice 5: We remember the ways in which Jesus accepted and included women in his ministry.

"Soon afterwards, Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the Kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources." (Luke 8:1–3 NRSV)

We are thankful for all those women who have travelled with Jesus since: those

who proclaim and bring the good news of the kingdom, and those who act in love to minister to the people around them.

Prayer:

Leader: God our Creator, we thank you that you call us to serve you. Help us to hear your voice, to feel your Spirit with us and to act in your love. We give thanks that we are blessed with men and women who work together for good in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Be with all women and men in the world whose rights are curtailed, who are denied the ability to have a full life or a full ministry, who are abused or used for the gratification of others. Help us to see their plight and to work to change the world. Help all those who hear your call to be empowered to exercise their full ministry in your name. Grant that all churches would see and understand the wholeness of your creation, and celebrate it in their words and actions. Help us to discern your will and to follow it. Make us a sign of your light and love to the world.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour we pray. Amen.

Leader: Forty years ago, The Presbyterian Church in Canada made a decision to put women in their place. Many women now serve God as ruling and teaching elders in our churches. Their work blesses us. Their work blesses the world. We thank God for them, and the hope they offer to all those who are currently excluded from full ministry in their churches. May all those who hear God's call to serve, one day be allowed full ministry in their church.

Hymn:

#639 We are marching/Siyahamba or #732 O day of peace that dimly shines

Benediction:

Leader: The grace of God the Father and Mother, the love of God the Son, and the fellowship of God the Holy Spirit, be with you all, now and for ever. Amen.

Go from here and shine.

(Light a candle for each worshipper to take with them, from the candle burning during the worship service.)

The Rev. Maureen Walter is an ordained minister, and she is also a lawyer. She lives in Toronto with her husband Richard Johnston and their two daughters, and attends Morningside High-Park Presbyterian Church. She has served on the national Women in Ministry committee, the editorial committee of Women's Perspectives newsletter, and assisted in the preparation of the Policy for Dealing with Complaints of Sexual Abuse and Harassment.

Choir tours Newfoundland

Katherine Allen

From June 16–27, the 74-member Ontario Presbyterian Chorus toured Newfoundland. Under the direction of Alastair McCallum, accompanied by Mina Park on piano, and Marion McCallum and Beth Clelland on violin, the choir presented five concerts and participated in two church services. The trip was wonderful and choir members experienced the generosity of people within the congregations and communities.

Offerings taken at each concert went towards a project within the congregation or community. The choir made the following donations: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St. John's, $1,000 towards the renovations of the church; Brigus United Church received $300 for their organ fund; St. Matthew's United Church, Lewisporte, $500 towards the KAIROS ecumenical justice campaign on water; The ministerial association in Deer Lake, $300 for the local Ecumenical Relief Fund; First United Church in Corner Brook $200 for the local food bank; Grenfell mission orphanage in St. Anthony's, $590.

In Lewisporte, the people with whom we were billeted told stories of when the planes landed in Gander on September 11, 2001 and of how the communities reached out to those who were stranded.

Each day was filled with adventures as we explored the beautiful Province of Newfoundland. We visited various tourist attractions such as Signal Hill in St. John's; quaint villages such as Quidi Vidi, Pouch Cove, Ferryland, Brigus and Rocky Harbour; lighthouses at Cape Spear (the most easterly point in North America); Long Point near Twillingate; Lobster Cove in Gros Morne Park; and museums. We were shown cod splitting at Prime Berth Museum in Twillingate; we visited Meyers Minerals and the Insectarium, and the aquarium at the Marine Centre in Norris Point, followed by simultaneous boat cruises of Trout River and the Western Brook Pond Cruise.

The Ontario Presbyterian Chorus is a choir with a

message, a mission, and a vision for a lost and needy world. As we travelled, we spread our message of God's love and peace through our music ministry. Our mission was to provide for the needs of the congregations we sang in. Our vision was exploring God's creation from St. John's to Corner Brook.

Katherine Allen is a member of The Ontario Presbyterian Chorus.

For information on The Ontario Presbyterian Chorus, please contact Sheila at 1-905-731-0136 or oandsbailey@sympatico.ca.

Teach us to pray word search

Jim Phillips

D	H	K	C	Y	L	I	A	D
A	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	O
E	A	W	N	N	B	G	E	N
R	V	L	O	H	G	U	E	E
B	E	P	U	L	C	D	M	N
A	N	M	R	S	L	I	O	A
D	K	R	E	H	T	A	F	M
E	A	R	T	H	J	F	H	E
B	R	I	N	G	I	V	E	M
T	R	I	A	L	R	I	V	O
S	E	V	I	L	L	I	W	C

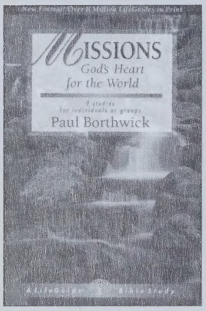
Find the words in bold in the puzzle below—up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally.

Matthew 6:9–13 (NIV)

9 **Our Father** in **Heaven**,
hallowed be your **name**,
10 your **Kingdom come**,
your **will** be **done**
on **earth** as it is in **heaven**.
11 **Give** us this day our **daily bread**.
12 **Forgive** us our **debts**,
As we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And do not **bring** us to the **time** of **trial**
but **rescue** us from the **evil** one.

Reviews

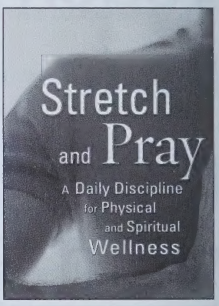
***Missions: God's Heart for the World*, Paul Borthwick, InterVarsity Press, $10.25**



As part of the LifeGuard Bible Study series, *Missions: God's Heart for the World* includes nine studies on Mission for individuals or groups. The guide "gives a survey of how God reaches out to the world—through Jesus and through human ambassadors like us." (p.82) Both Old and New Testament scriptures are used as the basis for studies. The studies begin with a personal question for inner reflection, and then moves on to deal with a particular biblical passage. Each study consists of three types of questions to further explore the passage and concepts: observation questions (who, what, where, etc.), interpretation questions to help the individual or group probe further into the meaning of the passage, and application questions which help one to discover the implications of the text for growing in Christ. Ideally, each member of the group would have a copy of the resource in order to prepare for the group discussion. Leader's Notes at the back of the guide have tips to prepare for and lead group discussions. The Notes also include deeper insight and other biblical references for further study.

This is a good resource of individuals or groups who want to understand the biblical concepts of mission, our understanding of mission, how to stay motivated in mission, what it means to be an ambassador for Christ, and God's call for us to do mission.

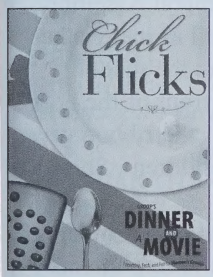
***Stretch and Pray: A Daily Discipline for Physical and Spiritual Wellness*, Murray D. Finck, Augsburg Books, $20.75**



Murray D. Finck discovered the benefits of daily stretching and quiet prayer while on a pilgrimage trek through Thailand and Nepal. He found that stretching and praying together deepened his prayer experiences. In *Stretch and Pray*, Mr. Finck explains how to incorporate physical movement with your daily prayer practice. It includes detailed pictures and instructions of 40 stretches that are designed to improve your physical well-being. Stretches are divided into four categories: stretches on your feet, on your back, on your stomach, and the six postures of prayer. Individuals can select the postures that work for them and customize a daily routine. Included with each

posture is a bible verse for reflection and prayer. The final two sections include group movement and journal pages with scripture, devotional thoughts, and space for personal reflection. This book could be used by individuals or groups as an interesting way to integrate body and spirit.

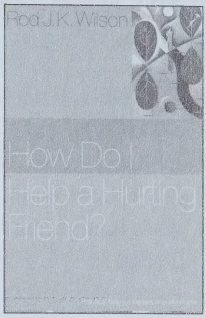
***Chick Flicks: Group's Dinner and a Movie*, Group Publishing, $26.50**

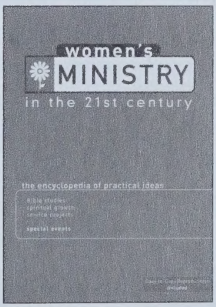


If you are interested in starting something a little different for your group, this is an excellent resource to start with. *Chick Flicks* provides an outline of how you can invite friends over, prepare a meal together, watch, and then discuss a thought-provoking film. Each of the featured 12 films contain spiritual themes that are applicable to daily life. The book includes descriptions of each movie, reproducible invitations, decorations ideas for the event, recipes, ideas on how to share in the cooking, and fun trivia quizzes. Discussion questions and scripture passages help jump-start conversation after the movie. Each section ends with prayer suggestions which incorporate the themes from the movies.

***How Do I Help a Hurting Friend?*, Rod J.K. Wilson,Baker Books, $18.50**

In his first chapter, Rod Wilson asks: "What do people who are struggling with problems need?" We want to help, but we often don't know how. He uses his 25 years of church and counselling experience to offer practical insights into helping people who are hurting. Help, he states, begins with understanding. He uses biblical references and reflection to help us understand issues, such as self image, grief, depression, burn-out, dysfunctional families, and wounded healers. He incorporates descriptions of how it feels to experience the problems and offers practical suggestions to help. *How Do I Help a Hurting Friend?* is a practical resource for leaders and laypeople.





***Women's Ministry in the 21st Century*, Group Publishing, $35.99**

Women's Ministry in the 21st Century includes more than 250 hands-on, experiential, and practical ideas to incorporate in your meeting time. The book's suggested activities are divided into nine sections. "Fellowship and fun" provides a series of activities to help build deep and lasting ties with other women in the church. "Serving others" includes

continued on page 37

Forward in Faith

INAUGURATION OF THE JOBAT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

On Friday, September 22, 2006 the new addition to the Masihi High School in Jobat on the Bhil field in India was inaugurated. Four represeentatives from Canada attended this special event: the Rev. Sarah Kim, Executive Director of the Women's Missionary Society, the Rev. Dr. Ron Wallace, Associate Secretary for International Ministries, Ms. Amy McLachlan of the Presbyterian Record Staff, and me as Moderator of the 132nd General Assembly. Bishop Maida of the Bhopal Diocese was also in attendance, as well as many other church leaders and members and especially the children who attend the school.

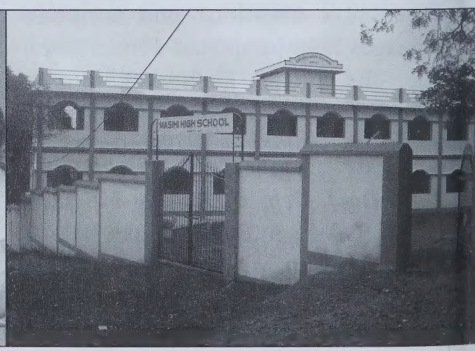
It was a happy event with the children sitting on mats at the front of the area where the program took place. After the speeches, the cutting of the ribbon was done, followed by a program of local dances performed by the children. Snacks were enjoyed by all.

Appreciation was expressed to the Women's Missionary Society for providing funding for this new wing dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of PCC deaconess Miss Mabel Booth, former Children's Work Secretary of the Women's Missionary Society. They appreciate that we stand in solidarity with them in helping to provide a high standard of education for the children in the Jobat area.

On the Monday after the inauguration, the children moved from the old school to the new. There was great excitement as they viewed the completed school for the first time. These few pictures will show you the new building and the fence provided by the WMS.

We continue to go "Forward in Faith."

Wilma Welsh, Treasurer



OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT
Margaret McGillivray
243 Martha Street
Goderich, ON N7A 3B4

VICE PRESIDENT
Druse Bryan
68—13th Street
Roxboro, QC H8Y 1L7

SECRETARY
Joan Hilliard
118 Harry Street
Renfrew, ON K7V 3C7

TREASURER
Wilma Welsh
451 Scotsdale Drive
Guelph, ON N1G 2W6

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE SECRETARY
Betty Siverns
#306—5419—201A Street
Langley, BC V3A 1S7

MEMBERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO
Marg Befus
6223 Dalton Drive NW
Calgary, AB T3A 1E1

Eunice Bisset
R.R. #4
Goderich, ON N7A 3Y1

Catherine Blatch
P.O. Box 171
25 Quabbin Road
Mallorytown, ON K0E 1R0

June Campbell
24 Thorncrest Road
Barrie, ON L4N 3P9

Helen Foss
2605 Jarvis Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2V2

Erlma Halden
412 Ross Street, Apt. 1
Lucknow, ON N0G 2H0

Susan McLennan
635 Grey Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 2E4

Nancy Miller
R.R. #3
Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0

Alyth Mutart
Box 312
Woodville, ON K0M 2T0

Sue (Soon-Ja) Nam
5164 Rayana Ridge
Mississauge, ON L5M 8B1

Cathy Reid
5318 Spruce Avenue
Burlington, ON L7L 1N5

Marie Schandlen
4084 Wainman Line
R.R. #2
Orillia, ON L3V 6H2

Joan Smith
62 Frances Street
Port Hope, ON L1A 1K4

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Synodical Presidents
Ina Borger
309 Lamont Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB R3P 0G2

Carolyn Jones*
22 Bridgenorth Crescent
Etobicoke, ON M9V 2M3

Dineke Kraay
519 Tobin Crescent
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4N7

Pauline Lindsay
42573 Water Tower Line,
RR #6
St. Thomas, ON N5P 3T1

Kay Mori
644 Munro Street
Kamloops, BC V2C 3E6

Sheilah Omah-Maharajh
10705—98 Street
Edmonton, AB T5H 2N8

Margaret Reynolds
202—7 Annette Street
Morrisburg, ON K0C 1X0

* Synodical Representative in place of president

Life and Mission Agency
Rick Fee
General Secretary
Life and Mission Agency
50 Wynford Drive
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Anna Cook
Joanne Instance
Audrey Nettleton
May Nutt
Helen Oakes
Joan Smith

STAFF
Executive Director
Sarah Kim

Program & Marketing
Co-ordinator
Alexis McKeown

Editor, *Glad Tidings*
Sonya Henderson

Manager, The Book Room
Susan Clarke

Book Room Resource
Consultant
Tricia Browne

Administrative Assistant &
Circulation Manager
Katherine Allen

Financial Officer (part-time)
Mary Taylor

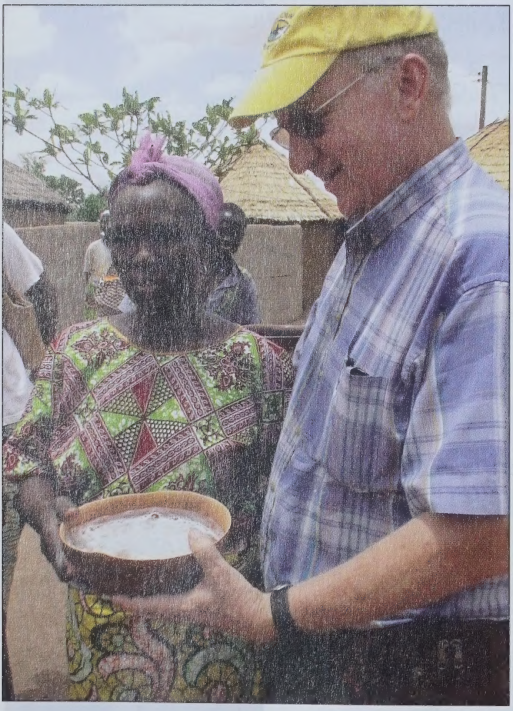
Mission in Action

The Rev. Marion Barclay MacKay
The Rev. Dr. Donald W. MacKay
Ghana

September 2006

A Village Visit in Ghana

For the last number of weeks, our attention has been directed towards the annual three-week catechists training course here at Nsaba Lay Training Centre. This year 113 students participated in three different levels of training. Each of these students presently serves a congregation or preaching station of



The Presbyterian Church of Ghana, often in small, rural, and remote locations. The students are diverse in their backgrounds: many are small land farmers, some teachers and health care workers, others traders or business folk, still others electricians, painters, and mechanics. Some have had the benefit of many years of formal education; others have barely completed Junior High School in their past. Some students who attended were fluent in English and several different Ghanaian languages; other came very reluctant to say anything at all in English. Despite this diversity of background, education, and language comprehension, these students shared a deep commitment to their call to ministry and service within the Church. During the three-week course, the worked hard, not only in the classroom, but provided leadership for morning devotions in the community and daily worship, and contributed to the up-keep of the tired and worn facilities of the Centre. The culmination of the training took place on Sunday, September 10, 2006 in a five-hour worship service that included the consecration of 56 of the students who had completed their training. It was quite the service and celebration! A highlight was seeing the local Presbyterian Church filled and overflowing with family members and friends of the graduate catechists, most

Overseas Staff Birthdays

April

11 - Sean David Allison, Cameroon

May

26 - Pauline Brown, India

of whom had travelled many hours to be able to attend and witness the consecration of their special person.

The Sunday following the service of consecration, we were privileged to accompany one of the newly consecrated catechists to his preaching station, about ten kilometres from our home. It was quite the trip, as the tarred road soon came to an end and we continued on a dirt road that became narrower and narrower and increasingly rougher as the kilometres ticked by. Mr. Mintah, the catechist, reaches this preaching station week by week either by a combination of taxi and walking the last two miles on foot, or by riding a bicycle if it's not the rainy season. We followed the road and suddenly, around one curve, we were there. We left the truck at the village's edge and wound our way by foot through a maze of bamboo and earthen-walled homes to the church. The church was reached by footpath, located in a near-by field and was simply a canopy made from palm branches and bamboo poles. Wooden benches had been brought from somewhere in the village and two plastic patio chairs were fetched for us, the visitors. A small table covered with a cloth and a traditional Ghanaian drum completed the furnishings. The service was simple and as it unfolded, the congregations grew so by the end, there were over 40 children, young people and adults present, along with a mother hen and her family of chicks! The service opened with a prayer and a hymn and then Mr. Mintah told us he would preach the sermon immediately …because we could see the dark clouds in the sky through the palm leaf

continued on page 46

Revitalizing Your Group

The new year is often a time when people set personal objectives ("I will visit the gym three times a week.") or re-evaluate certain aspects of their life ("Am I doing everything to get ahead in my career?"). Women's Missionary Society (WMS) groups can take advantage of this time of renewal to look to, and analyze, their future. Start by asking: What works in our group? Are there things that we can do to improve? Has our group become comfortable, predictable? Are we growing as women? Growing in faith? Are we missing opportunities to help our congregation grow in its knowledge of mission? Does our group need revitalizing?

The word "revitalize" implies that something is "slow", or not working well. Often, revitalizing requires letting some things go. It is important to note that just because something is traditional does not make it restrictive, outdated, or in need of revitalization.

The following are some suggestion questions and ideas to help your group examine and evaluate the relevance of what it does in, and out, of your meetings.

What is invigorating and what isn't? What is the purpose of your meeting? What are your group's hopes and dreams for the upcoming year? Discuss why your congregation needs your group. Ask someone to keep track of the time break-down of your meetings. How long do you spend on

devotion, fellowship, reading minutes, planning mission, etc.? Is this an effective and meaningful use of your time? Each member of your group has different strengths. Are there members who would like to participate in the group in different ways? Do group members have suggestions of study or activity they would like to see in the upcoming year? As you spend time answering these questions, your explorations and discussion may lead to other important questions.

You can use different methods in which to approach these questions: a questionnaire, an open discussion, an outside facilitator, or through the perspective of a newer member who may not have as much emotional attachment to tradition and rituals. Don't forget to ask for input in unlikely places. Ask your family, for example, what stories they remember you bringing home and being excited about.

Revitalizing is not about throwing out—it's about looking at what is appropriate for the current needs of your group in today's environment, getting excited about it, and enabling it. It is creating new energy. It is an opportunity to look for new ways for the Spirit to move among WMS members. It is an opportunity to try new activities and find skill sets and gifts that we never knew we had.

Your group may decide to take small steps or radical ones. In whatever steps your group decides to take, remember that the WMS supports, challenges, and empowers its members, members of congregations, mission staff/volunteers, outreach workers, and friends.

Alexis McKeown

Reviews
continued from page 31

activities that will help women become actively involved in service. "Spiritual growth" includes ideas, such as mentoring, Bible study, prayer groups, and journaling. "Bible studies" include scripture and questions with reproducible handouts, but limited leader guidance. "Girls' movie night" includes over 25 suggested movies with discussion questions. "Celebrations" has ideas for shows, garden tours, intergenerational activities (i.e., mother-daughter pajama party), and worship services. The "Outreach" section focuses on ideas on how to share your faith within your congregation and community. "Retreats" offers possible retreat themes and gives broad suggestions on how to plan and lead a retreat. "Leader helps" provides helpful hints for leaders in women's ministry.

Most ideas are well thought-out and functional, yet the description is in broad and general terms. Readers are left to develop leadership and execution of the ideas on their own.

Whether you are looking for a resource to help begin a group or are looking for ways to enliven your meetings, *Women's Ministry* includes some excellent and useful suggestions for women of all ages.

God's Love Built a Bridge

From September 20 to October 10, 2006, the 19-member Choir of the Hungarian Reformed Seminary in Romania gave 14 concerts in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Ontario. The choir is under the direction of Brian Johnston, The Presbyterian Church in Canada mission staff person in Cluj, Romania.

"But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a child."' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you." (Jeremiah 1:7 NIV)

Almost every theological student faces the problem that "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Sometimes, being a theological student is hard work. When we feel tired or stressed out, we begin to excuse ourselves from our duties. Jeremiah did the same thing. God's answer to Jeremiah was the verse I choose as a motto. We know, however, that God makes everything possible. As the psalm writer says, "With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall." (Psalm 18:29 NIV) The choir members of the Hungarian Reformed Seminary in Romania found that with God's help, we could even get across the Atlantic Ocean. During our preparation to leave for Canada, every possible hurdle was overcome with the support of the Holy Spirit. Financial needs, visa issues, and scheduling issues all fell into place. With God's help, we defeated our fears of a long flight and our worries about not being able to

adequately converse with people in English. It was with God's help that we were able to find the stamina to complete our busy tour schedule. We relied on God and we knew that God had given the same support to the many others who worked hard and courageously to organize this tour.

We received so many blessings from God's truthful followers during the three-week tour. It was the first opportunity for many of us to travel outside of Europe. I think I can speak for the entire choir when I say it was a great opportunity and a wonderful experience. We gave our best and are so grateful for the opportunity and the people we met. When we first arrived in Canada and were on the bus to our hotel, we began to sing. We did this often throughout the trip. Even when we were tired, travelling or waiting somewhere, we sang.

It is through song that we reach people—Christians and non-Christians alike. It is one of God's most amazing ways to reach people. During the tour, when we sang hymns in English and in Hungarian—especially "The Church's One Foundation"—we truly experienced that God is the one who unites us in love. It is love that can overcome anything; love that can unite people, and love that can destroy walls and build bridges. Together with God's people from Canada, we discovered that God's love built a bridge from Europe to Canada, from one heart to another. May God maintain this relationship between His followers from all over the world.

Szabó Árpád Csaba is a fifth-year student at the Hungarian Theological Seminary in Cluj, Romania.

Presbyterial

The **East Toronto** Presbyterial met at Willowdale Presbyterian Church on September 13 for their Study Workshop. Lynda Reid spoke briefly about the study. Later, members chose to attend two of the following half-hour study groups: Perspectives on Genesis, For Everything a Season, Water, A Sacred Gift, and Hungry in a World of Abundance.

Giollo Kelly

The Spring meeting of the **Glengarry** Presbyterial was held on May 26 at Kenyon Presbyterian Church, Dunvegan. The theme was "New World's Arising." The President, Joyce Bender, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer.

During the "new business" segment the President announced that during the Glengarry Presbyterial annual meeting on February 6, the Nominations Committee were unable to present a Slate of Officers for 2006–2007. As no nominations from the floor were forthcoming, the Committee presented a resolution outlining the reasons for disbanding the Presbyterial. Following a discussion, the resolution was accepted. Individual groups discussed the issue and reported back to the President. Regretfully, their decision to disband was unanimous.

Margaret Reynolds explained that she and Sarah Kim, Executive Director of WMS, had collaborated on a proposal for the reconstruction of the Glengarry Presbyterial. Margaret presented the proposal and requested that the Presbyterial members take time to discuss it. A vote was taken after the discussion. Sadly, the members rejected the proposal and accepted that the Presbyterial be disbanded as planned.

At lunch, Margaret presented a certificate which honoured the Glengarry Presbyterial's work over the last 123 years. The Memorial Service was led by Finch WMS.

Joyce highlighted the history of Glengarry Presbyterial WMS and Christina Ball led the Closure Service. The final meeting of Glengarry Presbyterial was closed with the hymn "Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless."

Margaret Ferguson

The theme for the **Brockville** Presbyterial spring meeting was "Encountering God Through Prayer." The meeting was held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Spencerville, ON. Brockville WMS prepared the morning worship service. During the meditation, we were reminded that every child of God has equal access and that God is near us all when we approach in prayer.

Special notices included bidding farewell to longtime WMS member,

larily DeBruijn receiving her WMS Life Membership in and Life Membership Certificate at a special ervice in June.

Marilyn de Bruijn from Chesterville, as she and her husband, the Rev. Bert de Bruijn, will soon retire in Lacombe, Alberta. Evelyn Walker, an associate WMS member, who has been in Diaconal Ministry with the PCC for 60 years, will soon be celebrating her 95th birthday.

Fleur Eenkhoorn led a bible study on prayer. In prayer, we communicate with and experience God. This relationship is a two-way street: God speaks to us, and we to God. These lines of communication are always open—there is no busy signal or call waiting. It is frustrating when we are sometimes put "on hold". We want our answer *now*. The group acknowledged that our biggest challenge is to be still and attentive in prayer. We agreed that when we are, we get the answers we need.

Local musicians, Abraham and Susan Te Grotenhuis, provided refreshing vocal and instrumental selections. The congo drums added an interesting rhythm to pieces played on the digital piano.

The afternoon speaker, Sheila Paterson, told of her trip to Japan in 2005. She was one of several participants from across Canada who participated in this Educational Tour. The group felt very welcome throughout their full itinerary, which included attending a Women's Church Conference.

President Catherine Blatch closed the meeting with prayer and encouraged members to attend the next Synodical meeting in Kemptville, ON. The guest speaker will be from the Taiwanese Church.

The **Essex-Kent** Presbyterial had their meeting at the Presbyterian Church in Thamesville in June. The day's special event was a visit to the local museum. Eight blankets, 78 vests, and 29 hats were packaged to be sent to Malawi. We are very proud of our ladies and their efforts.

Frances Monk

Pictured from left to right: President Connie Brown, Leaminton WMS President Donna Takaki, past President Lily Jones, and Treasurer Barbara Root.

On September 19, the ladies of the **Sarnia** Presbyterial had a learning experience during a bus trip to Evangel Hall Mission in Toronto. Evangel Hall opened in February 2006 to minister to the poor and needy of the inner city. It houses a large drop-in centre for food, drink, and conversation. There are 84 apartment units occupied by a diverse group of families, single mothers, and the mentally ill. The Hall caters to those who need affordable housing. The PCC's Campaign Dignity ensures payment of building expenses and debts, as well as funding programs and services of the Hall. The Hall urgently needs items, such as, new underwear, socks, T-shirts, running shoes (gently used), men's casual pants, shirts, and sweaters.

On the way home, the group travelled to Drayton to see the play "Twist . and Shout: The British Invasion." It was excellent! We shared a delicious meal on the way home.

On September 23, 62 men and women from the **Lindsay** and **Peterborough** Presbyterial gathered at Elim Lodge for the "Autumn Adventure" and to hear the Ontario Coordinators of the Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB).

The CFGB began 23 years ago when 13 member agencies, including Presbyterian World Service and Development joined to share in a Christian response to hunger. Ontario Coordinators David and Kathryn Mayberry showed an interesting PowerPoint presentation. Community "growing projects" have grown from 15 in 1993 to 130 in 2006. These projects range from one-acre to 35-acre farms and produce up to 55,000 tons of grain (wheat, corn, soybeans) to feed the hungry. Shipments include flour, oil, grain, as well as other seed varieties. Each member agency specializes in a specific area of a project. Citizens earn 4–6 kg of wheat a day for food for pay wages. Various projects of CFGB include river diversion for irrigation crops, a water well, a water reservoir, and nurseries to grow native grasses and fruit trees to reestablish food sources.

David and Kathryn enjoy leading youth tours to Food Grains projects to see our grain at work. Recently David escorted eight young people ranging in age from 18 to 24 to North Korea where over 100,000 tons of grain have been sent over the last ten years. Mennonite agencies were teaching agriculture methods while other agencies aimed their projects at helping children with nutrition education and medicine.

In other parts of the world, people paid in grain, and rebuilt 22 complete communities after the Indian earthquake disasters. CFGB calculated that one ton of grain rebuilt one house after the hurricanes in Central America.

In closing, David Mayberry asked us to consider why so many in the world are hungry. Farmers produce enough food for twice the world's population but are not paid enough for

their crops. One third of military spending would feed, house, and provide clean water for everyone. One child in six is malnourished. Child malnutrition affects mental and physical development that takes two or more generations to overcome. We need education and action in order to address the World's hunger. Harvest workshop activities, books, and resources from The Book Room are excellent ways to learn more about this important issue.

Holly Hall

From September 8–10, the **Saskatoon** Women's Camp celebrated at our beautiful church camp at Christopher Lake in Northern Saskatchewan. The theme of the camp was "Spirit of Living Water." Guest speaker and regular camper, Donna Wilkinson, reinforced this theme during her talks on her trip to Africa. As well as being the focus for our devotional times, the group's knowledge of the theme was enriched through sharing and learning.

Forty ladies from all corners of Saskatchewan and one faithful returnee from Alberta enjoyed fellowship, laughter, eating, singing, eating, crafts, worship, eating, and beautiful weather. Northern lights and a full moon added to the happy campfire on the beach.

On Saturday night, we found a chocolate kiss on our pillow with a note that read "Here's a goodnight kiss for you. May all your pleasant dreams come true—Your Woman's Camp Committee." The Committee did a wonderful job and provided the rest of us with a relaxing fun-filled family reunion.

Diana Sinden

The **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial spring rally was held at North Easthope Presbyterian Church on June 5. The theme was "Let your light shine." Vice President, Bernice Richards welcomed the group and led in opening prayer. Ms. Sue Hyatt from Village Craft and Candle in St. Marys was the guest speaker in the morning. Ms. Hyatt gave craft tips and demonstrated candle making with soy wax. Afterwards, Betty Slouthauber and Peg Nitsche sang several songs. Ruth Lange and Jean Edmunds of Knox Mitchell WMS led devotions entitled "Importance of Light in our Lives." The Rev. Ann Yee-Hibbs, Area Education Consultant and past

Donna Webster, Jean Easter, and Lorna Stuoar of Exeter; Barbara Rivers and Margaret Sharp of Seaforth; and Marion Wentzel of North Mornington with Huron-Perth President Ian McMillan.

President of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE), spoke in the afternoon and showed slides of her trip to Korea and Taiwan. Ms. Yee-Hibbs then assisted Ina McMillan in presenting Recognition Certificates to four groups in the Huron-Perth Presbytery which is disbanding: Exeter Caven, Seaforth, Cranbrook, and North Mornington.

Bessie Thompson

Guest speaker Joy Randall spoke of the current situation and her experiences in Taiwan at the fall rally of the **Brampton** Presbyterial. Mary McLean, President of the St. Andrew's-Pringle group, welcomed those attending the meeting at St. Andrew's, Brampton. The Rev. Rosemary Doran and members of the group led worship. Greetings were brought by the Rev. Wesley Denyer of St. Andrew's and Joan Smith, President of the Synodical of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda. The Rev. Lynda Reid, Area Educational Consultant, conducted the business meeting, followed by a brief In Memoriam service. The Presbyterial now holds two meetings per year—a spring "Coffee How Are You?" get-together and a fall rally.

Local

On June 7, **Esson** WMS members Mary Robertson and Betty MacKay received life memberships. Individual poems were written and recited to honour and celebrate their years of service and the many jobs they have undertaken for the WMS. Later, Betty MacKay also received a plaque to mark her 12 years as Esson Presbyterian Church treasurer.

Lois Cullis

The Jean Wilson WMS of **St. Paul's** Presbyterian Church, Sault Ste. Marie, ON began the fall season by honouring the 24 Octogenarians in the church.

Lynda Reid, Mary McLean, Joy Randall, Joan Smith, and Rosemary Doran with a display of pneumonia vests.

Betty MacKay and Mary Robertson, Esson WMS life membership recipients

The entire congregation joined in the celebration at a special luncheon held following the church service on September 10.

Without history, we have no present. Without the present, we have no future. St. Paul's is fortunate to have a long, faith-filled history and a superb record of mission. The wonderful people being honoured have been, and are, leaders by example. They show us what can be accomplished by putting faith into action.

On June 8, the members of **St. Paul's** WMS Winchester, ON met at the home of honourary member, Evelyn Walker, to celebrate her 60 years in diaconal service. Lunch was followed by Holy Communion. The Rev. Dr. Floyd McPhee presented Evelyn with a Certificate of Recognition. The group made a special donation to WMS projects in her honour.

Mr. McPhee gave an update on the work of Can Have, a mission he chairs. They work in Uganda to give education and shelter to children orphaned through AIDS. Mr. McPhee was recognized with a life membership in the WMS on Mission Awareness Sunday in St. Paul's, Winchester for his work.

Donna Wilson

Iris Torode, Evelyn Lawrence, Neta Ault, Lillian Darou, WMS President Barbara Ormston, Gladys Anderson, Wilda Hunter, Jessie Morrison, B. Christie, and Audrey Koistinen.

The cake for the 24 Octogenarians of St. Paul's, Sault Ste. Marie.

Rev. Deon Slabbert with St. Paul's, Sault Ste. Marie, WMS members Wilda Hunter and Neta Ault.

The Rev. Dr. Floyd McPhee, Mrs. Claire McPhee, and Evelyn Walker

Mission in Action
continued from page 35

canopy! The rain held off....for the sermon, followed by a time of praise and dancing, and continued to hold off through our words as visitors, the offerings, prayers for those who came forward seeking spiritual healing, announcements, and then finally the closing hymn and benediction. After the service, we slowly made our way back to the vehicle accompanied by the rest of the congregation. On the way, we stopped to greet the chief and some elders of the village. Just as we were leaving, several people came forward, their arms laden with freshly picked coconuts, a gift of hospitality to us for our visit that day. The coconuts went into the back of the truck and we began to trace our way back home. The first few raindrops hit the windshield as we progressed down the dirt track. As the raindrops became heavier, we became "taxi service" for several pedestrians who joined the coconuts in the back of the vehicle, grateful for the lift. By the time we reached the "big hill", the rain was pelting down...but we made it to the top of the hill, in the mud, with no problem. On this particular day, we were thankful for the many "Mr. Mintahs" who faithfully serve God's people in such remote congregations and The Presbyterian Church in Canada who provided us with the trustworthy vehicle in which to make such a trip!

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

Thank you to the *Glad Tidings* Secretaries/contact people for returning subscription lists in good time and for the new subscribers' names. Hopefully by the time this issue of the magazine is published, most of the lists will have been returned.

1) Audio Tapes: If you know of someone who has difficulty reading, *Glad Tidings* is available on audiocassette tape. Your group could take the audiotape to shut-ins in your congregation, or a nursing home. There is no charge for the audio version of *Glad Tidings*. A contribution of $12 can be made, if desired, to offset production costs.

2) Please remember to contact the circulation manager (not the editor) regarding subscriptions for the magazine (e.g., change of address, etc.).

3) If you have any promotional ideas that you would like to share with others, send them to me and I will include them in this column (all submissions will remain anonymous).

4) We promote the magazine year round, so send in new subscriptions anytime.

5) If you have access to a computer, you can check magazine highlights on the WMS website at http://www.presbyterian.ca/wms/gladtidingsA/gladtidings.html.

Building healthy communities

PWS&D is working with the Church of North India to train village health workers to improve the health and nutrition of vulnerable people in remote communities.

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr. Toronto. ON M3C 1J7 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301
www.presbyterian.ca pwsd@presbyterian.ca

IN REMEMBRANCE

Hazel Millman
St. Andrews, Brampton, ON

Inez Johnson
Bette Farrell
Eleanor Richards
First, Collingwood, ON

Charlotte Smith
Knox, Conn, ON

Aili Hilden
Forence Price
Elmvale, Elmvale, ON

Mrs. Ethel McAllister
Knox, Goderich, ON

Ann Dahl
Knox, Komoka, ON

Mary "Mae" Scott
St. Andrew's, Owen Sound, ON

Mr. Robert Jones
St. Andrew's, Picton, ON

Ruby McArthur
Lochwinnock, Renfrew, ON

Lillian Carpenter
St. Andrew's, Saskatoon, SK

Mrs. Thelma Meighan
Knox, St. Catharines, ON

Mabel Mills
St. Marys, St. Marys, ON

Isabel Gowland
St. Andrew's, Streetsville, ON

Iola Jones
St. Andrews-Chalmers, Uxbridge, ON

Our Church in Action

Presbyterians Sharing...

For more information, contact
Stewardship/*Presbyterians Sharing . . .*,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301

PM40013283

R9517

www.presbyterian.ca/presbyterianssharing

Glad Tidings

March/April 2007

Contents

Features

4 **Road Trip Worship** . . . . . *Cathy Gale*
7 **Empty Tomb—a poem** . . . . . *Carolyn Wilker*
8 **Signs of Good Life are Everywhere** . . . *Rev. David MacPherson*
10 **A Beacon of Hope** . . . . . *Rev. Margaret Mullin*
12 **Changes in the Garden** . . . . . *Joan Masterton*
17 **Sabbath Time** . . . . . *Cecilia Morris*
18 **Pass it on...** . . . . . *David & Miriam Barrie*
20 **House of God—a poem** . . . . . *Judith Frost*
21 **Angel on a Train** . . . . . *Evelyn Ball*
22 **In Triumph—a poem** . . . . . *Jolene Eby*
22 **Puzzle: Z** . . . . . *Jim Phillips*
23 **Amen is not Goodbye** . . . . . *L. Marie Enns*
24 **Out of the Ordinary—An Easter Drama** . . . . *L. June Stevenson*
40 **WMS President's Itinerary** . . . . .

Regulars

3 **Editor's Thoughts** . . . . .
30 **Reviews** . . . . .
32 **Mission in Action** . . . . . *Howard Family, Linda Shaw*
37 **In Memoriam** . . . . .
38 **In the Society** . . . . .
45 **Forward in Faith** . . . . . *Wilma Welsh*
46 **Circulation News** . . . . . *Katherine Allen*
47 **In Remembrance** . . . . .

They cut me down
And I leap up high;
I am the life
that'll never, never die;

"Lord of the Dance", The Book of Praise, 1997

Glad Tidings

March/April 2007
Volume 83, No. 2

EDITOR
SONYA HENDERSON
DESIGN
ALEXIS McKEOWN
CIRCULATION MANAGER
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to the circulation department at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7. Phone (416) 441-1111. Fax (416) 441-2825. E-mail Editorial shenderson@presbyterian.ca. Circulation kallen@presbyterian.ca. Publications mail registration number 09517. ISSN: 00170720.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

Canada

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

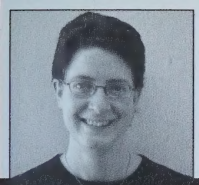
Subscription rate $12.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $2.00. WMS members should send their subscriptions through their group *Glad Tidings* Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from *Glad Tidings*. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to *Glad Tidings*.

Glad Tidings reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

Glad Tidings challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

Glad Tidings through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GladTidings provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.



Sonya Henderson

Editor's Thoughts

Ribblesdale

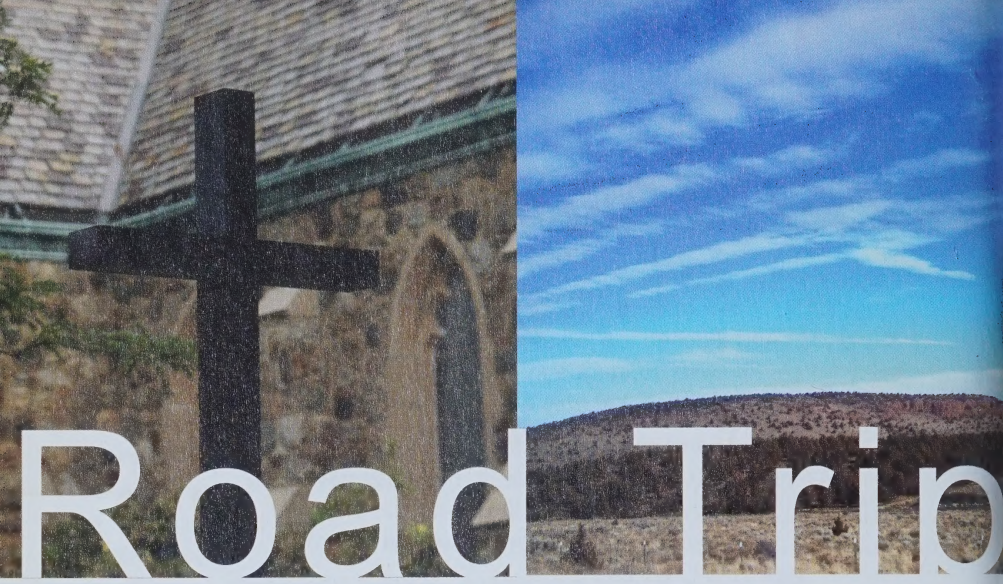
EARTH, sweet Earth, sweet landscape, with leaves throng
And louched low grass, heaven that dost appeal
To, with no tongue to plead, no heart to feel;
That canst but only be, but dost that long --

Thou canst but be, but that thou well dost; strong
Thy plea with him who dealt, nay does now deal,
Thy lovely dale down thus and thus bids reel
Thy river, and o'er gives all to rack or wrong.

And what is Earth's eye, tongue, or heart else, where
Else, but in dear and dogged man? -- Ah, the heir
To his own selfbent so bound, so tied to his turn,
To thriftless reave both our rich round world bare
And none reck of world after, this bids wear
Earth brows of such care, care and dear concern.
-- Gerard Manley Hopkins

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844–1889) was a Jesuit priest and poet whose concern about the environment shines through in this poem. In it, he presents nature as intrinsically valuable. God is concerned with the salvation not only of humanity, but of the environment. The poet portrays humankind as responsible not only for polluting the earth, but for participating in its salvation.

As the earth re-awakens with spring's arrival, we celebrate Earth Day. It is timely to take these words of an early Christian environmentalist to heart. In her article "Changes in the Garden" (p. 12), Joan Masterton outlines some of current environmental issues and what we can do to change our habits to care for God's creation. We need to recognize our responsibilities as humans and as caring Christian stewards for our planet. One way of doing this is by using the "Joining the Dance: Lenten Reflections about Sabbath and the Stewardship of Creation" which is produced by the Stewardship Department of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. This valuable resource can be used by individuals or groups. It is designed to "help you deepen your relationship with God the Creator, creation and one another through a greater understanding of a lifestyle based on Sabbath and the stewardship of creation." (*Joining the Dance*, p. 6) For more information and for information on how to order, see page 33. May it inspire you to Join in the Dance, to be a part of the Good News, and to be Earth's eye, tongue, and heart.



Road Trip

In the early spring of 2005, our family was happily planning a road trip to the California coast when with dismay, I realized it would coincide with the Easter weekend. This would take me away from worship at my home church. As a Christian, being with my church family on Good Friday and Easter Sunday is a high priority. I wondered how I would celebrate Easter "on the road." Without the context of my community, would it carry the same significance for me?

We left Calgary on Maundy Thursday. Twilight saw us approaching Spokane, Washington, from the east. Farmland and forest gave way to busier, bustling communities. Always a keen observer, one sight caught my eye: a choral and liturgical procession just entering a well-lit church. Robes and banners waved in the breeze and the illuminated cross on the front lawn underlined the worshippers' intentions with simplicity. My imagination entered the church with them for the next little while, and I wondered about their worship service. Would they break bread, as Jesus did with his disciples that same night many years ago? What familiar hymns would they be singing? Later that night, I reflected on that brief glimpse and how it had affected me. I realized that despite continual movement, I had entered into an Easter experience on Maundy Thursday. Who would have thought: "worship" at 60 miles an hour!

I kept my Bible handy when we were loading up the van the next morning. I am one of those people who can read in a moving car, so I marked Good Friday by reading some scripture. Our day's travel took us

Worship

Cathy Gale

southwest through unfamiliar territory to Bend, Oregon. The landscape changed dramatically as we left Spokane. We were soon driving through barren rangeland. The somewhat rolling countryside was arid and brown. Vegetation was sparse. Sagebrush routinely skittered along or across the road. It seemed life would be difficult and trying on this type of land.

On reading about Jesus' crucifixion, it occurred to me that the landscape we were now driving through was something of a metaphor for this moment in Jesus' life. Barren and harsh, it seemed devoid of anything fruitful, serving very little purpose or usefulness. What good could possibly come from it?

As we approached the Oregon border and the Columbia River Valley, rangeland gave way to well-irrigated vineyards and the heart of Washington's wine industry. My metaphorical observation seemed even more appropriate: Who else but Jesus could make something wonderful out of nothing? I enjoyed coming back to this metaphor throughout the day. I pondered the coincidence of our travels and reflected on my observations. As we drove, we noticed small crosses, crowns, and purple stoles that decorated the front yards of numerous homes thus filling the day with lasting images. Private faith became public statement and enriched my Good Friday "worship."

During our last leg from Bend to Crescent City, California, we grew more excited as we came upon the lush, green scenery of southwestern Oregon. Flowers bloomed, the sun was warm, and the air fragrant and heavy. Surely this would be a glorious way to experience the resurrection

morning! Our delight turned to surprise and dismay as we left Grant's Pass for the descent to the California coast. We soon realized that the amazingly large Redwoods we were driving through got that way because of the rain… and rain…and more rain! In our explorations later that week, we would discover that the oldest sections of the Redwood Forests dated back to the times of Jesus himself.

As we settled in to Crescent City, we were told that rain and gloomy skies were the norm for the time of year. The likelihood of finding a place to worship under sunny California skies seemed as realistic as the Easter bunny and his eggs! It was a depressing prospect to think ahead to a dreary Easter morning.

Undaunted by a particularly heavy downpour, I made my way to the local United Methodist Church the next morning. As I ran from the car to the door, I muttered to myself that perhaps the rain was somewhat appropriate—since Jesus was all about "wiping the slate clean" for us, surely this deluge would do it!

An obvious newcomer, I received numerous curious glances and a few shy smiles as I settled into the pew. The pageantry and ritual reinforced the holiness of the day. The minister expounded on the appropriateness of the morning's rain with depth and theology—and likely much experience! It was during the Prayers of the People that I really felt in close community with these people—they asked for prayers for the then-dying Pope John Paul II, Terry Schiavo, several sons and daughters who were serving in Iraq, and numerous others. It was a privilege to learn what my new brothers and sisters needed. We prayed together and celebrated the good news.

When I left the service, I felt uplifted and reassured that the message of the resurrection remains universal. In different congregations and in different weather, the good news knows no bounds of time or place: Jesus died so that we may live.

While it came as no real surprise to me that I would actually "feel" Easter that morning, the metaphors of this cross-country journey were truly unexpected: that I would "worship" on Maundy Thursday, see the suffering of the cross in barren land, witness the fruit coming from emptiness, and be washed of sin on Sunday morning. It was not only a remarkable Easter experience, but a true gift. I had known this Easter would be different, but I had underestimated the richness and depth of worship images found "on the road." The images and reflections from those three days were profound and lasting—ones I would gladly experience again…especially if there would be just a little less rain!

Cathy Gale is an elder at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church in Calgary, Alberta and as much as she enjoyed being at home this past Easter, part of her wanted to be in the California rain once again!

EMPTY TOMB

Carolyn Wilker

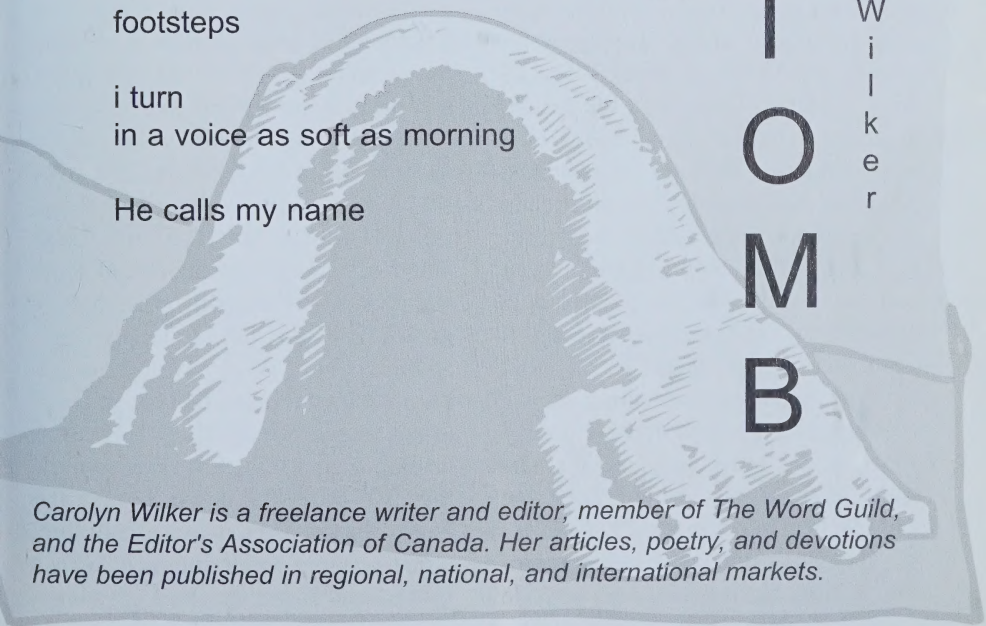
In the gray dawn
I say goodbye to one
whose hands brought life from
death
whose words confounded kings
and priests

The cave is shadowed and dark
a boulder rests unneeded, but not
unheeded
rising light exposes
folded cloth in an empty cave
confounding
compounding yesterday's drama

footsteps

i turn
in a voice as soft as morning

He calls my name



Carolyn Wilker is a freelance writer and editor, member of The Word Guild, and the Editor's Association of Canada. Her articles, poetry, and devotions have been published in regional, national, and international markets.

Signs of Good Life are Everywhere

The Rev. David MacPherson, St. James Presbyterian Church, Melfort, SK

It's amazing how much life there is in a cemetery. Seriously. I was in such a place a few days ago. I had some time to spare as I was waiting for folks to arrive, so I wandered around, reading the names of the people who had made up the community in past years. I thought about their stories and wondered what life had been like for them: the dreams they had, the plans they made, the struggles they endured. You know what I mean…lives that were not very different from yours or mine.

As I continued my quiet ramble, something in a corner of the cemetery caught my eye and I went over to investigate. As I drew closer, I noticed there were two vintage graves tucked in under a hedge which had grown around them. I read the inscriptions, pondered their lives for a moment, and then continued my walk. I must confess that I felt drawn again to that secluded corner. In fact, as people gathered for the ceremony to come, I continued to linger there. The signs of age were apparent (everything ages—even graves). There is nothing unique about an old grave site, and it's certainly nothing that would keep me there. What was the appeal?

Then I saw it. It was barely discernable at first, but it was there—a blade of grass. Yes, a beautiful, green blade of grass in a sea of brown.

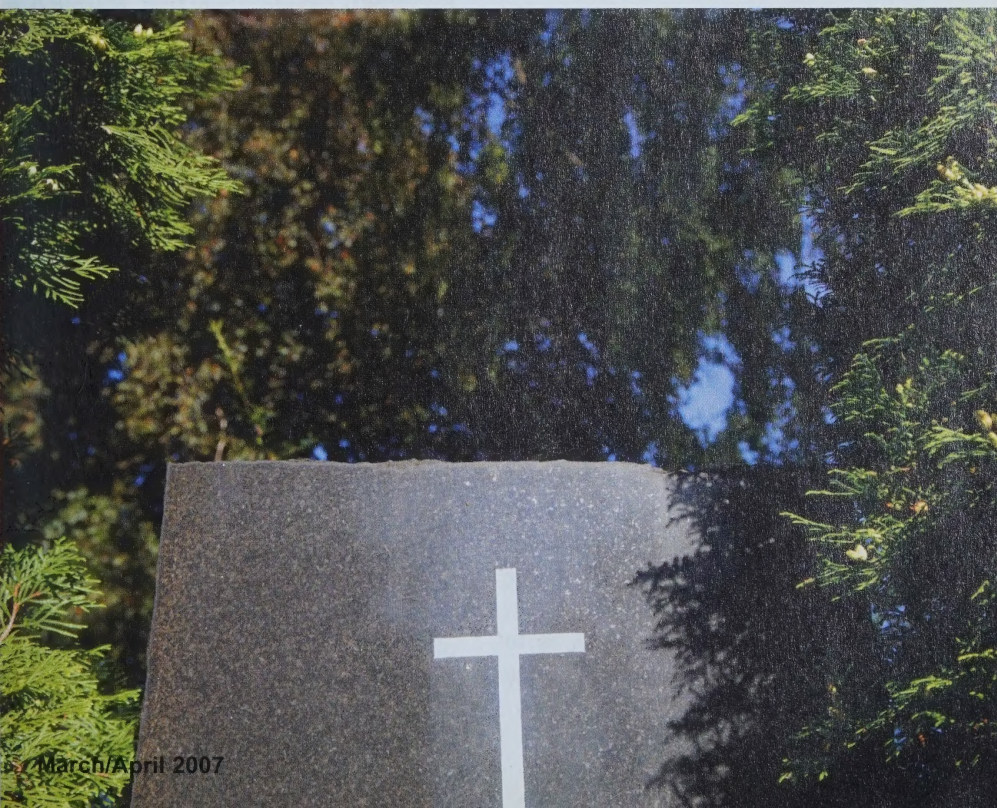
Some of you are likely thinking, "This guy is a little bent."—but hang in there. What I suddenly became aware of were the many signs of life that were right before my eyes. I failed to recognize them until I noticed that inconspicuous blade of green grass waving at me. Suddenly, it seemed as if the old cemetery had come back to life. I saw buds ready to burst into leaves on the hedge. Looking with new eyes, I noticed that the surrounding bushes would soon cradle the graves in a bouquet of green. Life was bursting forth everywhere, and I had been given a "front seat" to witness this miracle.

It is evening now and as I recall the day's events, I am reminded that what I witnessed earlier is not a new thing. Before I go any further, let me assure you that I am not making light of death and grief. Like many of you, my family knows only too well the empty chair, and the pain of grief. My point is that I am fully convinced that the grave is only a temporary dwelling. How can I declare such a thing? My reasoning is this: We have just come through the Easter season. There was a crucifixion, a death, and a tomb complete with a gravestone. However, three days later,

there was resurrection and life. The tomb that housed a body was empty. The stone had been removed but not to let Jesus out. He had already vacated the premises. No, the gravestone was moved so Mary, Peter, and John could see in. Their testimony to this event is our opportunity to look with faith and see what they saw: nothing—simply an empty grave and clothes. Like I said earlier, life is not a new thing in a cemetery. The Lord Jesus saw to that. He promised that no grave cover, no matter how elaborate, will ever be able to house God's people permanently.

I know that everyone's journey is unique. There are questions for many, doubt for some, and unbelief for others. I respect you all. As I journey through life, I am an optimist. I believe in the records and promises of God. They are my anchor for today, and my assurance for tomorrow. It was on a Thursday afternoon in a cemetery while I was surrounded by death that I had this personal experience and became aware of life. The experience blessed me. It confirmed my journey of faith in Christ once again. I wanted to share my blessing with you, and say to you all: "May life jump up and bless you—even in a cemetery."

First published in The Melfort Journal (May 2, 2006). Reprinted with permission.



A BEACON OF HOPE

ANISHINABE PLACE OF HOPE—ENDIIAANG

The Rev. Margaret Mullin

In "A New Home at Toronto's Heart", John Congram writes that "Evangel Hall in Toronto is the only downtown ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada." (*Glad Tidings*, September/October 2006). However, The Presbyterian Church in Canada can boast more than one. In Winnipeg alone, two vibrant centres have been ministering in the name of Christ in the downtown core for 42 years.

Anishinabe Fellowship Centre was founded by a local congregation through the Presbytery of Winnipeg in 1969, and Flora House was founded by the Women's Missionary Society in 1964. Both are now incorporated as Winnipeg Inner City Missions of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Our aim in both locations is to help impoverished people of these neighbourhoods achieve their highest potential. The Flora House ministry focuses mainly on local children, youth, and their immediate families. Our skills-based programming gives children a fun atmosphere in which to learn. We provide tutoring in math, literacy, organized sports, music, art, and nutrition.

Anishinabe Fellowship Centre is supported partly by *Presbyterian Sharing...* and through the untiring fundraising efforts of a dedicated volunteer committee. The neighbourhood in which we minister is the second poorest postal code in Canada. Our "call" from God is to work with society's least, to love unconditionally, and to be advocates for justice on their behalf.

As with the history of the expansion of Evangel Hall, our ministry has also expanded with time. We are now in the

"IT WAS A MOMENT OF HEALING AND RECONCILIATION, AND AN HISTORICAL MOMENT FOR THE CHURCH."

process of constructing a larger centre. "Anishinabe Place of Hope" will house the current Anishinabe Fellowship Centre outreach ministry, the Sunday worshipping community, and 20 affordable rate apartments for people who are currently living in hotel rooms or slum housing. Our apartments will offer clean, safe, and sober accommodation to single men and women, who have made a clear choice to turn their lives around and who want to find employment. It will be more than an apartment for them—it will be a home. It will be "Endiiaang"—an Ojibway word which means "a place to embrace you" or "a place to belong." Parish Social worker Susan Currie, and Parish Nurse Sandy Belisle will work with each resident to help them overcome any employment barriers they may face.

This supportive housing initiative is being funded by the Federal Government, the Provincial Government, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Women's Missionary Society, a private family foundation, an anonymous donor, and many donations from individuals from the Presbytery of Winnipeg and churches across Canada. Place of Hope will cost $2.3 million to construct. We have a further $500,000 to raise.

On November 16, 2006, 207 people gathered from the Church, the Aboriginal community, the Federal and Provincial Governments, the City, and the local community for the exciting sod-turning ceremony for this wonderful project. The Honourable Gordon Macintosh, minister of Family and Housing, called the project a "beacon of hope in the community."

It was a moment of healing and reconciliation, and an historical moment for the Church. Stella Blackbird, Cree Elder, and the Moderator of the Presbytery of Winnipeg, the Rev. Brenda Fraser, offered Christian and Traditional Aboriginal prayers and led a service/ceremony for the dedication and blessing of the property at 415 Logan Avenue.

These two Spiritual leaders worked respectfully together to dedicate and bless the land for God's use. They blessed the project, staff, and people who will benefit from the project.

You can help us be a beacon of hope by sending a donation to Winnipeg Inner City Missions, Box 2444 Station Main, Winnipeg Manitoba R3C 4A7 and designate the donation to Anishinabe Place Of Hope.

Photo on opposite page: Sod-turning Ceremony of Anishinabe Place on November 16, 2006.

Changes in the Ga

As I write this article, I am enjoying the "sabbath" that comes each year between Christmas and New Year. The office is closed, and the year-end rush at work is concluded. The numerous social events that occur in December have come and gone, and the joy and peace of Christmas—worship services, the sharing of gifts, meals, and time with family and friends—lingers and prolongs that sense of peace and contentedness. Thank you, Lord, for all sabbath moments.

For me, these particular days of sabbath often involve the re-creation of body, mind, and spirit that accompanies outdoor winter activity—specifically, down-hill

en

Joan Masterton

skiing. A two-hour drive will take me to Collingwood where I can pause at the top of the hill to enjoy a beautiful blue sky, ice bobbing in the expanse of Georgian Bay, brilliant white snow, dark coniferous forests and that most precious of commodities—winter sunshine. Then follows the adrenalin-producing rush down the slopes and that pleasant ache of leg muscles well exercised. This winter, however, I must find new outdoor December ventures because there is no skiing to be found in southern Ontario. Every day the newspapers are filled with articles about climate change and whether this snow-drought is just a taste of Ontario winters to come, or whether it is merely seasonal variability.

What is happening to our planet? We seem to be breaking temperature records every year, and all over the world. Hurricane Katrina was only one of an increasing number of extreme and evermore lethal storms. After a record summer drought and severe forest fires, the province of British Columbia was pounded by hurricane-force wind, rain, and snowstorms in December, causing widespread flooding. The news of the break-up of a huge ice sheet off the northern coast of Ellesmere Island in Canada's Arctic reminded us of other reports of the melting of both the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

The atmosphere is not the only component of the global biosphere suffering harm. In Canada alone, there are 516 species of plants and animals that have been declared "at risk." The United States, of all countries, recently identified the polar bear as being potentially endangered by shrinking ice floes caused by global warming, environmental contamination, and over-hunting. In Canada and around the world, expanding urban areas and industrial enterprises are eating up valuable farmland. The need to feed 6.6 billion people requires intensive use of pesticides and fertilizers. These end up in our water systems, lakes, and oceans, and also in the food we consume and in our DNA. Recently, blood samples were taken from four ministers of Canada's federal government. In all cases, evidence of chemicals having been absorbed into their bodies was present. No wonder more and more children are identified with allergies and sensitivities to a range of substances. As a species, we require clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and clean, nutritious food to eat. Yet we are increasingly poisoning our air, our water, and our food…and ourselves.

What happened to our Garden of Eden? Genesis says nothing about toxic chemicals or climate catastrophes. The apple that Eve and Adam bit into may have been forbidden, but there is no mention of chemicals or urban expansion taking over the orchard. There is no mention of the need to burn down the tree in order to plant coffee for trans-national corporations.

There are, of course, two stories of creation in Genesis. The first (Genesis 1:1–2:4a) includes verse 28 with that troublesome word, "dominion." *"God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'" (NRSV)* The King James' version also uses "dominion." The word itself means "sovereign authority; control" as in "Dominion of Canada," the proper name for our country. Perhaps the confusion enters when we mix the English word "dominion" with "domination," which implies a totally different relationship.

The Jewish Study Bible containing the Torah (first five books of our Old Testament) uses the word "rule" as a verb rather than the use of "dominion" as a noun. *"God blessed them and God said to them, 'Be fertile and increase, fill the earth and master it; and rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and all the living things that creep on earth.'"* The commentary accompanying this text in the Jewish Study Bible states, "Some have seen in that commission a licence for ecological irresponsibility. The fact is, however, that the Tanakh [Jewish bible] presents humanity not as the owner of nature but as its steward, strictly accounting to its true owner. This theology is one source of the important institutions of the sabbatical and jubilee years."

The second account of creation, Genesis 2:4b–24, more clearly suggests a healthier relationship between humankind and their environment. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." (verse 15) The word "keep" comes from the Hebrew word "shamar" which means a loving, caring, sustaining keeping. The same word is used in Numbers (6:24) in the Aaronic blessing: *"The Lord bless you and keep you..."* We are asking God to nurture our life-sustaining and life-fulfilling relationships—with our family and friends but also with the land, air, water, and creatures that sustain us, and with God.

Hence, we are called to "keep" the Earth and to be its stewards. We know who the rightful owner is. Psalm 24:1 tells us *"The Earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it."* The familiar 23rd Psalm paints a picture of tranquility and peace in God's natural environment. So where have we gone wrong?

Perhaps we have blurred the line between who God calls us to be and

the cultural imperative of our times. We pray that God "… give us this day our daily bread," conjuring up images of the Hebrew people being sustained in the wilderness for 40 years through God's daily (and *only* daily) provision of manna. We pray for daily bread, but we accumulate and we hoard and in our fear of "not enough," surrounded by our affluence, we seek more with no regard to how our greed impacts others or our environment. We pray to God but we worship Mammon.

So, as Earth Day 2007 approaches, what can I do to impact the machinery of western civilization? I still need transportation to get to my job, so the greenhouse gases that my car emits will continue into the near future. I enjoy eating foods from around the world and drinking a good cup of coffee first thing in the morning, so banana and coffee plantations and the damage inflicted by the mechanisms to get their produce from a third world country to my Canadian kitchen are going to continue.

I have come to the conclusion that I cannot change the world. With God's help, I can only change myself. I go back to the creation story and am reminded that the world God created "was good." It is time—a kairos time—that I recognized the holiness and sacredness of God's creation. Complaining and pointing fingers at SUV owners or CEOs of trans-national corporations will not help to build sustainable communities around the world or strengthen such spiritual values as gratitude, humility, and faith. I must re-examine my own values as exemplified by my own consumption patterns, and make changes in my own personal life. Creation and justice and peace are intimately interrelated. If I want to truly reflect gratitude for all of God's blessings in my life, then it becomes imperative that I do more than give a few dollars out of my abundance to plant trees or help the victims of my consumption patterns. Perhaps I can simplify my dinner table with home-grown food products, drink more water and less coffee, and take public transit. There are a multitude of ways in which I can consume less and simplify more—the key is that I have to be intentional and take concrete action.

The challenge is not easy, but God will give us the courage to "let go" of the fear of scarcity, to remember that whatever we have is enough, and to examine every aspect of the way we live our lives and spend our resources. We can do this as a community of faith in our congregations, "greening" our own church buildings. We can do this in our homes, in our transportation systems, and in our offices.

Winter finally came, but it was short. As I approach Earth Day, I think I will see if I can give up those down-hill skis and trade them in for cross-country skis that I can use in nearby parks, and a good pair of hiking boots.

Earth Day
April 22, 2007

The water we drink...
The air we breathe...
The food we eat...

It is not too late.

Changing Habits...

The water we drink...

- Drink more and use less for other purposes
- Use a water-saving device in showerheads and toile
- Seed lawns and plant gardens with species that require less watering
- Avoid excessive use for laundry, car-washing, dishe etc.
- Don't buy bottled water (this encourages commodit zation of a life-giving substance)

The air we breathe...

- Take public transit and drive less
- Buy "clean technology" (e.g., gas/electric hybrid vehicles)
- Encourage industry to assume responsibility for the emissions of toxic fumes and greenhouse gases int the atmosphere
- Buy food products which have not been sprayed wi herbicides and pesticides
- Consume less energy (lighting, heating, appliances,etc.)

The food we eat...

- Buy organic, locally grown food, whenever possibl
- Avoid buying threatened species and fish stocks
- Eat less meat and more vegetables and fruit: follow Canada's Food Guide
- Make "slow food" a regular part of your diet! (cooked at home, eaten with family and friends, an blessed by God.)

Joan Masterton recently retired from a 30-year career learning about and communicating climate change with the Meteorological Service of Canada. She is now thrilled to be learning about and communicating planned giving in the national office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and God's love as an M.Div. student at Knox College.

Sabbath Time

Cecilia Morris

This is the year of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a time to rest, relax, reflect, and gather strength for the tasks that lie ahead. This summer, I took a bittersweet trip to my homeland of Scotland to say goodbye to my terminally ill brother. It was during my time of stress that I experienced wonderful Sabbath moments.

One Saturday, I journeyed to the Island of Iona. It was a chance to admire the great beauty of God's creation. It is said that Iona, this little island off the west coast of Scotland, is a place where little separates the sacred from the secular. This I truly believe, as one feels closer to God—whether sitting in the Abbey or walking around the island.

As the crowd of people from our ferry dispersed, I began to feel the peace and tranquility of the island. We walked through a lovely little garden which is built among the ruins of the Augustinian Nunnery, McLeans cross, the peaceful graveyard of Reilig Odhrain, St. Orans chapel, the high crosses of St. Martin and St. John, and the entrance to Clumba's cell. We went through an archway to the cloister and passed the chapter house where the monks met daily to hear a chapter from the rule of St. Benedict. We entered the Abbey through the sacristy doorway with its beautifully carved archway. It brought tears to my eyes to be in this ancient Abbey where countless pilgrims have worshiped and prayed. Although I have only been there once before, I sat in peace and quiet and thought of how much I loved this place—and how it felt like home. Another Sabbath moment.

I had a few "Wow, Look at that" moments as the sun bathed the mainland mountains in evening golden sunlight for our journey home. At the head of Lock Earn, I looked back to see shards of sunlight streaming through the clouds and reflecting on the water—a beautiful sight I will never forget.

When I'm tired or a bit stressed out, I can sit down, close my eyes, and relive my journey. Once again, I feel the peace of Iona and see the wonders of God's creation. It is my Sabbath time. Thanks be to God.

Pass It On...

David and Miriam Barrie

How can we best help the African farmer who hopes to feed her family year after year but finds it a constant struggle? Mrs. Gondwe is a typical farmer in Malawi. She has to prepare the fields, plant a crop as soon as the rains come, and then try to deal with the problems that arise, such as weeds, drought, high-cost fertilizers, pests, and heavy rains.

Farmers the world over face similar problems but Malawi is the fifth poorest country in the world. Malawian farmers, like Mrs. Gondwe, lack the resources to hire help, purchase good seed and fertilizer, and find solutions to their problems. The added deficit of the farmers' lack of education and the effects of HIV/AIDS on the working population increase the urgency of the situation and the necessity for aid.

Like many other African countries, Malawi has an economy based on agriculture. The main exports are tobacco, tea, coffee, and sugar. Malawi gained independence in 1964 under Dr. Hastings Banda, who ruled as president until 1994 when multi-party democracy was realized. Achieving multi-party democracy, however, has not magically erased the poverty in the country. During his tenure, Dr. Banda constantly encouraged Malawians to "work hard in the fields" and to become known as good workers both at home and in the minds of their neighbours in other countries. And Malawian people do work hard. Malawi's high population, however, makes land scarce and forces people to survive on small farms. Most small landholders cultivate less than one hectare. The scarcity of arable land forces people to try to grow food on land that is mountainous. The Ministry of Agriculture lacks the resources to hire adequate staff to take education programs on how to grow food on steep slopes for the people in the villages. Non-Governmental Organizations and churches are helping fill this gap through valuable and necessary training programs. They teach local courses on appropriate methods, such as low-cost inputs, organic manure, drought resistant crops, and ground cover, and then provide follow-up programs in the villages.

When we went to Malawi in 1990, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Blantyre Synod was about to lose 280 acres of land because it had been abandoned for many years. The original idea was to take the abandoned land and make it a demonstration farm for female farmers and the many youth, who are school dropouts and have few opportunities to be educated. We wanted to teach the most up-to-date methods and provide the farmers with the opportunity to receive practical, hands-on training.

The first project was the construction of a fish pond. At that time, the government stocked ponds at no charge. Since then, then there has been a harvest of fish every six months. From that simple beginning, the centre has developed and grown to include a staff of thirty, offices, staff housing, a hostel, a school, a borehole, crops, poultry, and livestock.

The once abandoned land is now known as Namingazi Farm Training Centre and the goal is to teach modern and appropriate farming methods in an area near the Zomba plateau that is mainly steep slopes. Thus, everyone who comes for a course learns how to make and use an "A-frame." Participants learn how to make ridges on the contour using no-cost materials —poles, string, and a stone. This is the simplest but best method of farming and growing crops on sloping land. Then, the farmers learn about the best crops to grow. Legumes are promoted to provide protein and improve soil fertility. Soy beans, pigeon peas, beans, and ground nuts (peanuts) not only provide a good harvest, but the crop residue can be buried to provide nutrients for the next crop. Cassava and sweet potatoes are not only drought tolerant, but grow well in poor soil.

The importance of trees is stressed since deforestation is a very serious problem in Malawi. Most food is cooked over a wood fire so firewood is becoming scarcer.

Once participants finish a course, the staff of the Namingazi Farm provide a follow-up service in their farms and villages. Farmers, who attend a course, are expected to help their fellow farmers by taking a leadership role in their village. It is most important that the village chief also supports the program. The staff of the Namingazi Farm met with the 13 neighbouring village head men before any work began in order to educate them on the aims of the farm and to get their support. In the 15 years since the Farm's inception, the number of villages involved has doubled to 26.

Mrs. Gondwe came to the Namingazi Farm and learned how to make a compost heap, an "A-frame", and saw the value of some of the newer crops. When she went back to her village, she put her new knowledge into practice. Now, her compost heaps are better than any I have seen and she provides valuable leadership

in her village. She still faces the same problems that every farmer faces, but they are not as devastating as before. Because of the help and education of the Namingazi Farm, she is growing better, more nutritious crops with better methods and Mrs. Gondwe is a valuable leader in her community.

Namingazi Farm in Malawi serves one small area of a country. The work there is an on-going process. Until Malawi's recent democracy truly recognizes the needs of the poor and takes action, it is up to partners like The Presbyterian Church in Canada to continue helping in this valuable work.

Jesus said: "I tell you whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me." (Mathew 25:40)

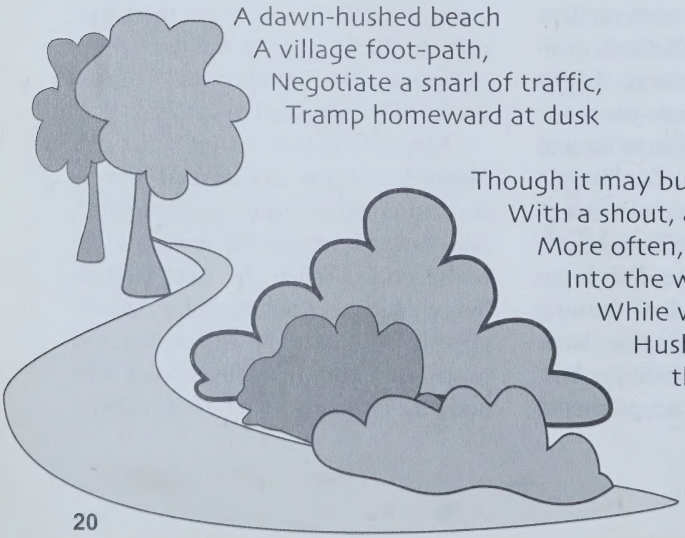
House of God

Judith Frost

After the dream of the angels climbing the ladder to Heaven...

Jacob was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of Heaven." (Genesis 28:17) NIV

The house of God
Sometimes rises
From under our feet
Enclosing us
In holy spaces
While we walk
A dawn-hushed beach
A village foot-path,
Negotiate a snarl of traffic,
Tramp homeward at dusk



Though it may burst in
With a shout, a roar
More often, it drops a pebble
Into the well
While we, like Jacob, awakening
Hush to feel its ripples wash
the night.

Angel on a Train

Evelyn Ball

"Please come with me," our daughter pleaded. "You know you'll never make the effort on your own." So my husband and I flew with her to Scotland for a wonderful five-day tour.

At the end of the trip, we boarded a train bound for London. The coach was almost empty. A woman, her child, and another couple were the only other passengers. We had just settled in to our seats, with a table in between, when a tall man wearing a tweed jacket asked in a Scottish accent if he could join us. With so many other seats available, this request seemed rather strange. But during the long ride, the gentleman shared an animated conversation with my husband and daughter.

I was tired from trying to see everything in a matter of days and was more subdued. I was also concerned about where we should get off the train in London…and about how we were to find the Bed & Breakfast we had reserved in that large city.

The tall man glanced my way every so often and smiled. I returned his smiles with difficulty. After a while, he startled us by announcing, "This is where we get off!" As he left the coach with us, he picked up my heavy piece of luggage. He ignored the wheels and carried the heavy bag as he walked alongside us. He led us along a corridor, up a flight of stairs, along another corridor, and down again, all the while carrying my luggage. Then he helped us buy tickets at a dispensing machine and shepherded us on to an underground subway. Some time later, he said, "You will be getting off at the next stop. Go up the stairs to street level and three blocks along to your right, you'll find your Bed & Breakfast." We quickly shook hands, thanked him, and said good-bye. Before the subway train moved on, I turned back and waved to him as he stood in the doorway. He saluted me with a grin, and the doors closed.

As we were walking to our accommodation, we realized we hadn't even asked him his name. But to me, that tall, strong, Scottish gentleman was an angel sent by God.

In Triumph

Jolene Eby

April defiantly pushes away
the dregs of winter.
Her warm breath frees the soil,
allows brazen heads
of tulips, crocuses and daffodils
to rise in triumph.

God defiantly pushes away
the heavy stone.
God's warm breath frees the Son
from death's grave clothes,
allowing Christ, who is our life,
to rise in triumph.

Puzzle: Z

Jim Phillips

Find the listed words in the puzzle—up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally.

Zachariah
Zadok
Zebidah
Zebulun
Zedekiah
Zelophehad
Zephaniah
Zephi
Zerubbabel
Ziba
Zimri
Zin
Zion
Zoar
Zophar
Zuzim

D	H	R	C	I	R	M	I	Z	L
H	A	A	N	U	L	U	B	E	Z
A	D	H	R	J	K	T	B	P	H
I	I	P	E	A	H	A	E	H	A
R	B	O	N	H	B	R	B	I	I
A	E	Z	B	B	P	A	D	N	K
H	Z	M	U	Z	K	O	I	O	E
C	L	R	S	I	O	Z	L	F	D
A	E	I	P	O	D	U	G	E	E
Z	H	A	I	N	A	H	P	E	Z
A	V	A	B	I	Z	U	Z	I	M

Amen is not Goodbye

L. Marie Enns

I was trying frantically to pack a parcel to be mailed. Our remote northern community was about 70 miles from the post office and someone could mail the item for me today. The next opportunity could be in a week, or ten days. Therefore, I needed to send the package right away!

Not being the most organized housekeeper, I was becoming frustrated in my search for wrapping paper, scissors, and scotch tape. My young son, on the other hand, was becoming frustrated with my many gyrations and mutterings. In his pre-school wisdom, he abruptly stated: "Well, if you'd pray once in a while, maybe you could find things!"

I stood rebuked. Although I prayed every day, I realized I was not acting like a person of prayer. It seemed when I said, "Amen," I was really saying "Goodbye." I was forgetting to include the Lord in my day. I was trying to handle things on my own—and not handling them well.

Why is it that I ask for strength for the day, but don't depend on the Lord for it? Why do I take my burdens to God and then pick them up again instead of leaving them? Is my faith too weak? Do I pray, but fail to believe God will answer?

Praying is essential, but it must be accompanied by faith and trust. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5). "In quietness and trust is your strength." (Isaiah 30:15).

Instead of dismissing my Lord with "Amen," I must invite God to walk with me through whatever the day brings so I can be calm instead of stressed. "You will keep in perfect peace with him whose mind is steadfast, because He trusts in You." (Isaiah 26:13).

I need to come before God with an uncluttered, trusting, and thankful heart to receive God's peace. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6).

When my "Amen" isn't a "Goodbye," my heart and mind guarded by God's peace are set on trusting God, I can expect God to answer even a quick prayer for help in finding that elusive scotch tape!

L. Marie Enns is a member of Inscribe Christian Writers' Fellowship. She and her husband Henry are retired teachers. They have four adult children, three children-in-law, and five grandchildren.

Out of the Ordinary

Staging: *Narrator stands at one side of stage, characters sit in the centre on rough crates, resembling stones, or stand. Each group sits near the front to wait their turn and assembles quietly as the narrator begins their section. Use simple costuming, such as shawls, scarves, staffs, sandals, etc. If your group is small, characters may play several roles. A table is on the opposite side to the narrator. At the beginning, Group I is already in place. Scripture from the NRSV indicated in brackets is for reference only. All hymns are from the* Book of Praise 1997. *The offering may be inserted, wherever desired.*

Call to Worship:

God breaks into our lives in simple, ordinary ways, using ordinary people and ordinary materials to further his kingdom on earth. God summons us to follow him with extraordinary joy. Let us open our hearts and minds to hear with gladness the message for us today.

Hymn:

#250 "I danced in the morning" v. 1

Narrator: In the days of the Emperor Augustus, Joseph went from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was expecting a child. While they were there, she gave birth to her son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.

In that region there were shepherds watching over their flock. An angel of the Lord stood before them and said, "I bring you good news for all people: to you is born this day a Savior…you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." The shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child. (Luke 2:1–20 NRSV)

An Easter Drama

L. June Stevenson

Group I - The parents: Mary, the mother of Jesus holds a ragged cloth in her hands and Joseph, her husband, holds straw or a palm branch.

Mary: Joseph, do you remember that long trip to Bethlehem? The poor little donkey carried both me and the weight of the baby inside me. He was happy to be lodged among the other animals in the barn. It was a warm and cozy place to give birth to our baby. I wrapped him in bands of cloth, like this. (*Holds up the cloth.*)

Joseph: Remember the other donkey that Jesus rode on into Jerusalem? How the crowds cheered, spreading their cloaks and palm branches in his path. (*Raising palm branch.*) An ordinary little animal with an extraordinary task.

Mary: Yes, and while the shepherds crowded into the tiny space to see the baby, their sheep nibbled on some straw. (*If Joseph has straw, he holds it up.*) Remember, years later our son later held a sheep in his arms and spoke those strange words, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:1) Our baby, born in such ordinary circumstances, became such an extraordinary man. (*Raising the cloth in her hands.*) Today, they stripped off his clothes and cast lots for them. What a cruel death he suffered.

Joseph: We couldn't save him: you, with your faithful mother's heart and I with my strong carpenter's hands. (*Both stand, clasp hands and walk off stage. As they do, Mary lays the cloth on the table; Joseph lays down the palm or straw.*)

Hymn:

#173 "We three kings" vv 3–4

Narrator: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East followed the star they had observed at its rising to the place where the child was born. Entering, they saw the child with Mary, his mother and knelt down to pay him homage, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

(Matthew 2:1–11)

Spices, although costly, were commonly used in the Middle East especially to anoint both the living and the dead. Myrrh represented mortality, suffering, and sorrow; frankincense symbolized Christ's purity and kingship.

Group II - The women: Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus and Salome. Mary holds a spice jar, Martha a wooden spoon.

Mary: Our Lord was such a good friend. He praised me for sitting at his feet and listening to him. When I broke an alabaster jar, poured ointment on his feet and washed them with my tears, I never imagined what lay ahead but Jesus knew. He said it was for his burial. (John 12:1–3)

Martha: He taught me not to worry about ordinary tasks but to focus on the essential. How he loved our brother, Lazarus. Remember how he wept over Lazarus' tomb and called him to life again? Jesus told me that he was the resurrection and the life but I didn't understand. (John 11:1–27)

Salome: When we brought spices to the tomb this morning to anoint him, my heart was filled with sorrow but he was not there. An angel said that he was going ahead of us. I don't understand. What will happen now? (*Women rise to leave. Mary and Martha place items on the table.*)

Hymn:

#250 "I danced in the morning" v. 2

Narrator: After he was baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus began his ministry. Walking along the Sea of Galilee, he called twelve ordinary people working at mostly ordinary tasks. "I will make you fish for people," he told the fishermen.

Group III - Some disciples: Peter, Thomas, and Andrew. Peter holds a rock; Andrew holds a net or fish in his hands.

Peter: I am so ashamed. I said I would lay down my life for him and then I deserted him as he knew I would. There was so much I never understood. He said, "You are Peter, and on this rock (*holds up rock*) I will build my church." (Mathew. 16:18)

Thomas: I doubted him, remember? I asked how we could know the way where he was going. He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:46a)

Andrew: We were just ordinary fishermen. (*Holds up net/fish.*) What astonishing things he did: he fed over 4,000 people with a few small fish

and some loaves; he calmed the storm; then later he healed the blind, the lame, the lepers, and so many others.

Peter: He walked and talked with everyone, the ordinary people on the street as well as the high and mighty. He was an extraordinary man, truly God's beloved Son. Look, the women are coming. Let us go and see what news they have. (*As they leave Peter lays rock on the table; John the net/fish.*)

Hymn:

#634 "Will you come and follow me" vv 3–5

Narrator: Jesus said to his disciples, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified." Then the chief priests and the elders…gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him.

Group IV - The authorities: Pharisee, Pilate, and a Centurion. Pilate holds a basin; the Centurion a crown of thorns.

Pharisee: He had to die. There was no other way. He put good and just men like me down when we prayed in the temple. He challenged our knowledge of Scripture.

Pilate: Why did Herod abdicate his authority and the chief priests bring him to me? He was an ordinary man, of no consequence to the authority of Rome. I was forced to condemn him to death against my better judgment. I washed my hands of the whole affair. (*Holds up basin.*)

Centurion: (*Shakes his head.*) We thought he was an ordinary criminal. We stripped him, spat on him, and put a crown of thorns on his head. (Holds up crown of thorns.) We cast lots for his clothes. Over his head we put a sign that read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Afterwards I wept. This was an extraordinary man, truly the Son of God. (Matthew 27:28–37) (*The three men exit, laying basin and crown on table.*)

Hymn:

#250 "I danced in the morning" v. 3

Narrator: When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me…" While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take, this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

Group V - More disciples: Judas (holds coins), James and John (holds bread and cup).

James: He washed our feet! Then he said, "So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet...." He was not an ordinary man, he was a Servant King. (John 13:3–16a)

John: He took ordinary bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to us, and said, "Take, this is my body." Then he took an ordinary cup of wine, and after giving thanks he gave it to us, and all of us drank from it. He said, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." (Mark 14:22–24)

Judas: (*Turns away from others and speaks.*) He knew that I was the one who would betray him. I thought he was going to be a great leader. I believed his kingdom was to be here on earth. He passed me the bread that he had dipped in the dish—and then, I went out and betrayed him. (*Rushes away throwing coins on table. Simon Peter and John follow putting bread and cup down.*)

Mary Magdalene: (*Comes running up, beckoning all the characters forward. All assemble on stage.)* Come, come. I have seen the Lord. He is alive. He has been raised. He spoke to me. Christ is risen.

All: He is risen, He is risen indeed.

Prayer:

Lord, you call us from our ordinary lives and our ordinary tasks into an extraordinary world of service with you. It is a world where leaders become servants, where the meek inherit the earth, and where death is overcome. We offer our lives in humility for the coming of your kingdom here on earth. AMEN

Hymn:

#265 "Hail the day that sees Christ rise"

Benediction:

Go forward into new life in Christ Jesus, our risen Lord. AMEN

L. June Stevenson retired as editor of Glad Tidings *in June 2004. She now enjoys freelance writing, gardening, and her grandchildren.*

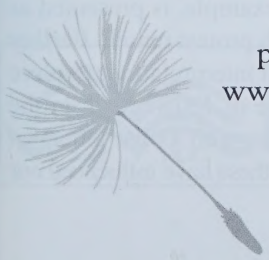
Gift Annuities
Gift Annuities
Gift Annuities
Gift Annuities
Gift Annuities

Never heard of them before? Then you are not aware that they are a way that you can give a gift to the church and simultaneously receive a guaranteed income for life. And the majority or all of the income is tax free!

Pretty neat, eh?

To learn more about gift annuities and other ways to make a planned gift to the church contact:

The Planned Giving Office
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
1-800-619-7301
plannedgiving@presbyterian.ca
www.presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving



Planting seeds of hope.

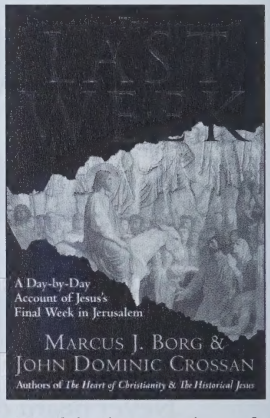
For generations to come.

Reviews

***An Inconvenient Truth*, Starring Al Gore, Director Davis Guggenheim, Paramount Home Video, 2006**

"Humanity is sitting on a ticking time bomb. If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced." (www.climatecrisis.net) *An Inconvenient Truth* is a documentary featuring former Vice President of the United States Al Gore. After loosing the Presidential elections, Mr. Gore turned his attention to raising people's awareness of climate issues. The documentary follows Mr. Gore on his "travelling global warming show" as he explains global warming in lay terms, explores the impacts of global warming, and outlines functional and feasible solutions to the issue. Use this thought- and conversation-provoking movie to educate yourself and your group about the issues surrounding global warming.

***The Last Week: A Day-by Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem*, Marcus J. Borg & John Dominic Crossan, Harper, San Francisco, $29.95**

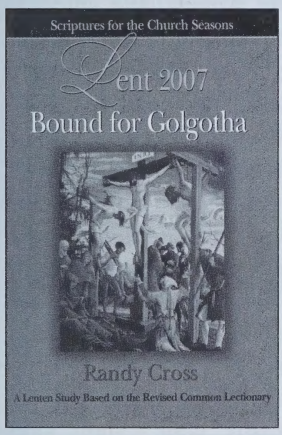

A Day-by-Day
Account of Jesus's
Final Week in Jerusalem
MARCUS J. BORG &
JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN
Authors of The Heart of Christianity & The Historical Jesus

After the release of Mel Gibson's blockbuster movie *The Passion of Christ,* it was discovered that many Christians are unclear of the details of the week that led to Jesus' crucifixion. *The Last Week* is the reaction of two highly regarded Jesus-scholars to this discovery. They used the gospel of Mark as a guide to tell the seven-day saga through history and context. They described the many forces—political, social, financial, and religious—that were at work. The emphasis is not on the passion of Christ (as in his suffering), but in Christ's passion which is declared in terms of God's justice and love. The Palm Sunday procession on a donkey, for example, is presented as a rebel-messiah protest march. Further discussions and interpretations explore the significance of Jesus' death in the other Gospels as well as the letters of Paul, and how these have influenced our

understanding. Reading this book one day at a time during Holy Week would provide timely reflection and, undoubtedly, add another layer of meaning to the passion of Christ.

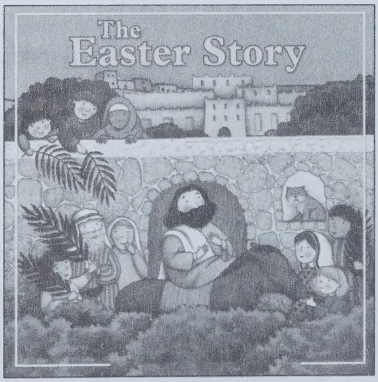
***Bound for Golgotha Lent 2007, A Lenten Study Based on the Revised Common Lectionary*, by Randy Cross, Abingdon Press, Student book $7.95, Leader's guide $7.95**

To fully experience Easter, we need to prepare for it during Lent. This seven-session study is a journey with Jesus to Golgotha. It provokes questions and reflections of our day-to-day lives while we look at the life of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. Other references include the prophecies of Isaiah and Paul's insights as found in Romans, Philippians, and Corinthians. The leader's guide is extremely helpful with session outlines, biblical background, reflections, and questions.


Scriptures for the Church Seasons
Lent 2007
Bound for Golgotha
Randy Cross
A Lenten Study Based on the Revised Common Lectionary

***The Easter Story*, retold by Allia Zobel Nolan, illustrated by Trace Moroney, Kregal Kidzone Publications, $5.25**

Books are a great way to refocus on the true meaning of Easter with the Easter Bunny nipping at a takeover of the spiritual celebration. This is a pleasing Easter book for young children. The Easter story is told simply without being too graphic or scary. The artwork is vivid and colorful. The message is simple and clear: we celebrate Easter to remember what Jesus did for us, and to realize how much He loves us. This could nestle quite easily next to chocolate eggs in an Easter basket.



THE Book Room
WMS PCC
The Book Room
50 Wynford Drive,
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 1-800-619-7301
bookroom@presbyterian.ca

Mission in Action

Alan, Rosalie, Kirsten, and Robynne Howard
Woodstock, India

October 25, 2006

Canada Day, summer holidays, the beginning of the new school year, Indian Independence Day, Quarter Break, Thanksgiving, Diwali, and many birthdays have all come and gone at seemingly outrageous speed and, sorry to say, without acknowledgement. Here finally is a letter from the Howards with belated greetings for each of the celebrations we have missed.

Our summer break was both restful and productive—we slept, read, visited friends and worked on preparations for the change to a residential House system. Kirsten and Robynne returned to Mussoorie in July—happy, laden with new clothes, books, Canadian food, and full of stories of the sayings and antics of their young cousins. Once all the students were back, our lives went instantly into high gear.

Alan continues to oversee the two Middle School residences: 132 students, eight residential staff and five janitorial employees, plus building maintenance personnel and laundry services, budgets, and administrative meetings. Rosalie is the primary dorm parent for a House of 23 boys in Grades 6–8, which keeps her decidedly busy and on her toes. In August, the students were reluctant and apprehensive about the changes, concerned that they wouldn't be able to spend as much time as they would like with their friends, who were in other "Houses." There were a few bumps as we established rules and boundaries to fit the new configuration. But by the end of the first quarter, the students were asking for assurance that they would stay in the same House with the same dorm parent and Housemates. "It's so much better this way," they said emphatically.

Kirsten is in Grade 9 this year and is living at Midlands, the High School girls' residence, this semester. At times, she finds herself overwhelmed with her workload, as, on top of her studies, she is Class Governor and has been on the Woodstock Cross-Country, Soccer, and Track and Field teams. She nevertheless achieved Honour Roll again this past Quarter. Robynne continues to maintain excellent grades as well, while spending the

majority of her free time with her friends. For the last several weeks, she has been madly knitting items for the Charity Stall at the Alter Ridge/Ridgewood Open House on November 4.

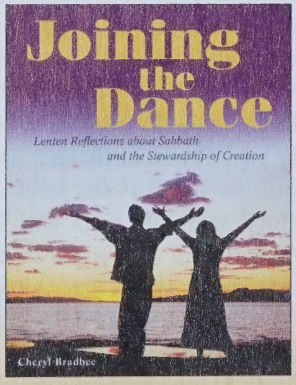
This event is one of the highlights of the year in our residences. As our theme is "We Are the World," each of the six Houses will decorate its lounge and halls as one of the continents, and each room will represent a different country. Visitors will get their "pass-ports" stamped as they go from place to place. There will also be multi-ethnic food stalls, face-painting, games, and a talent show put on by the Middle School students for the rest of the school. All money raised will again go to Landour Hospital's Poor People's Fund. It's all great fun, but the week leading up to Open House is always rather chaotic!

This week though, all the students are away with their teachers on field trips across North India. The Grade 6 students are river-rafting and safariing near Rishikesh; the Grade 7s are hiking to the source of the Ganga River; the Grade 8s are crossing rivers, rappelling, and paragliding near Corbett Park; and the Grade 9s are involved in building and service projects in various Garwahli villages. Other High School groups are variously visiting Delhi, Agra, Dharamsala and Rajasthan, hiking to Bandar Poonch base camp, and participating in Habitat for Humanity projects. Alan and Rosalie are taking a couple of days' holiday at

Joining the Dance, by environmentalist and former lay community pastor Cheryl Bradbee, brings together the themes of Sabbath, stewardship of creation and Lent in a resource that can be used at anytime of year by individuals or groups. Biblically based, each reflection provides time for reading scripture, reflecting and praying.

Do you wonder how to respond to the environmental challenges of the 21st century? Respond as though you are joining in a dance with the Creator, letting this booklet guide you through movements about creation, invitation, economics, freedom, right relationships, change and resurrection.

Come and join the dance.



Joining the Dance is available from
The Book Room of The Presbyterian Church in Canada at
1-800-619-7301, 416-441-1111, bookroom@presbyterian.ca
or online at http://www.presbyterian.ca/stewardship

Stewardship — The Year of the Sabbath 2006-2007

Overseas Staff Birthdays

June

11 - Marion Barclay-MacKay, Ghana
23 - Linda Shaw, Guyana

July

5 - Murray Garvin, Taiwan
20 - Alan Howard, India
22 - Makram Barsoum, Cyprus

Kanatal, a small farming community 40 km east of Mussoorie, and 2000 feet higher in altitude. Here narrow terraces of vegetables, orchards, and grain crops spill hundreds of feet down the foothills overshadowed by the Himalayan snowpeaks. It's a beautiful spot and we have enjoyed the opportunity to go for long walks, read, write (Rosalie), watch cricket (Alan) and sleep! The students return tomorrow and we go back to work. If the past few months are any indication, the pace of the next six weeks before semester ends will be hectic. We will take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for your faithful interest, care, and prayers. To paraphrase Tiny Tim—God bless you, everyone!

P.S. One great area of need is for more residence staff, especially guys for the High School boys' residence, but also people for the High School girls' and Middle School residences. Please pray with us for this, as well as for all the staff who are now working extra shifts to cover the shortfall.

Linda Shaw
Skeldon Presbyterian Manse
Corriverton, Guyana

"There's a time for everything. A time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn and a time to dance."

Ecclesiastes 2:4

It matters not the time or place God's people experience the full range of human experiences and here in Guyana the full range is evident to us on a daily basis.

Yesterday we visited a 53-year-old woman who broke her foot three years ago and has been an invalid ever since. Earlier this year, Ian officiated at her husband's funeral. Two weeks ago one of her three grand-children was killed tragically. Nawati is weeping day and night. She told us she keeps "studying" her grand-son, which we take to mean she just can't stop thinking about him. She is begging God to send no more disasters into her life. And then when we are leaving she calls to me from the chair beside the window which is where she spends her days, "Sister Linda, you make me so glad when you come." All we did was sit with her and listen. I am humbled by this woman in her very long season of weeping.

Our night watchman, Curtis, is a Christian who attends another church and tithes. His full family income is

the equivalent of about $360 per month. He has three children and a wife. Last night he was visiting with us and telling us how he saw an ad on TV last year encouraging him to sponsor a child by sending the equivalent of $12 per month to some organization. He said he thought he could afford that and was going to sponsor a child but before he did one of his relatives asked him to take in her 8-year-old son to raise as his own. He said he saw that as a sign from God. He would use that $12 to feed the extra mouth. I am humbled by this man who has so little and is so generous.

A family in our church got connected to running water two weeks ago. For years they have been carrying water to their home pail by pail from a distance away. We rejoice with them and their neighbours. Yesterday I learned they are now having a septic system installed. Few of us know the joy of "a first flush"—but this family will. It amazes me that in almost a year we have known them, they had never mentioned that they had no running water. I complain regularly when ours is turned off for a few hours!

Ivy is raising three children on her own. Her fourth child died this year at the age of eight months. That same night, her husband was arrested and later sent to prison for three years. Ivy has had to take on a job as a security guard and leave her children on their own. But for Ivy, this is a time to work so she can feed her children. Last week when I visited the home, I found the two older girls alone at home and excited because they were both celebrating birthdays. It was a time of joy—not because there was a party or a cake or presents—because there weren't any of these things. It was a time of joy because birthdays are happy times. Those little girls know what it means to rejoice in the midst of what to us seems a pretty miserable situation. Again, I am touched and saddened.

Ravi, a neighbour's 17-year-old son, did something wrong, was arrested and charged. I went to court with him. He had no money for a lawyer so I tried to address the judge and appeal to him for probation. "I'll meet with him once a week. He has promised to come to our church youth group." Ravi was sentenced to a year in an adult prison. Now his mother is inconsolable and her health has been affected. She has developed diabetes. Yesterday, an older daughter came to live with her. She is expecting a child. Despair and hope live side by side in that home. A child will be born in January and another child will return home in March.

Two of the four churches in Ian's parish have not been operating for a couple of years and there are only two or three people left in each who attended the church in the past. We tried to revive one of them a few months ago without much success. Two weeks ago we started an after-school Children's

Club which includes singing, dancing, Bible Story, craft/games and snack. Ian made his debut as a song-leader with his guitar! Forty children arrived the first day. Most of the children are Hindu and at least half are from very poor homes. But the children and their parents are interested in any opportunities to learn and be enriched. And we are interested in them and we rejoice in the way God is using children to build His Kingdom. We are hoping the Christian remnant in Village 48 are rejoicing with us and have some vision for renewed ministry.

On a more down-to-earth and personal note. We are giving thanks for the newly acquired high speed broadband Internet, being able to talk to our children and friends on Skype, a little garden which promises a little lettuce for Christmas, a cat that has adopted us and is almost willing to be petted, a son who will be able to visit us over the Christmas season, the swimming pool at the Sugar Estate, and a mango tree that is about to bear fruit. And we are thankful for the ongoing prayerful and financial support of the WMS. The many Birthday and Christmas cards that arrive are reminders of your loving interest in our ministry. Thank you.

Let the youth in your congregations know that there is a YIM trip to Guyana planned for the summer of 2007. And for the not so young, there is an opportunity to plan a mission exposure trip to Guyana if you work through Barbara Nawratil, bnawratil@presbyterian.ca or check the PCC web site and link to "Mission Interpretation."

In Memoriam

On June 30, 2006, **Mrs. Margaret Wallace** of Edmonton, AB, widow of Hamilton Bruce Wallace, passed away at the age of 99 years.

Margaret Wallace, née Shaw, was born in Newcastle on Tyne in England. She was the mother of five children, Patricia, Robert, Barbara, Richard, and the Rev. Annabelle Wallace of Saskatoon. She enjoyed and empathized with her eight grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Margaret served The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Women's Missionary Society locally in Edmonton and nationally in Canada in various ways. It was her calling to find projects and tasks. She would then find and organize the workers to do it. The Women's Missionary Society (WMS) benefited greatly from her talents. From 1962 to 1966, Margaret worked as a Hospital Visitor in the City of Edmonton for the WMS. She had the ability to encourage others to use their talents in the work of the church. There was no job too big or too small for Margaret's attention. She sought out hidden talents in others. She was hard to refuse but very easy to enjoy. Margaret's health has kept her from attending church services over the past few years, but her spirit will live on in those who have been fortunate enough to work beside her.

Faithfully and lovingly submitted by Norma Proudfoot, an often willing partner in the work that Margaret inspired.

The **Rev. Dr. Mervin Roy Gellatly** passed away at the St. Michaels's Palliative Care Unit in Lethbridge, AB on December 26, 2006 at the age of 71 years. Besides his loving wife Beverly, he is survived by son Dr. Ian Gellatly of Edmonton, daughter Heather Frey (Michael) of Ancaster, and son Dr. Kevin Gellatly (Eileen) of Kingston. Roy's grandchildren, Kyle, Kaitlyn, Alysha, Talia and Fiona, were his heart's delight.

Roy was born in Toronto in 1935. After high school he undertook three years of study at the London College of Bible and Mission, where Roy and Beverly met and married in 1957. In 1961,

continued on page 47

Presbyterial

On October 21, the **Barrie** Presbyterial held a Women's Day Apart at St. Andrew's, Barrie, ON. During opening devotions, the Rev. Margaret Robertson, minister at Elmvale, led us in the hymn "Sing a New Song Unto the Lord." By the end of the day, we knew this lively hymn quite well.

After Bible study, there were three workshops. With 11 or 12 in each group, each participant was able to experience all three workshops. Ms. Robertson led a workshop in which we were encouraged to write our own psalm—either individually or in a group. We were then encouraged to set it to music. Marlene Lambie led a workshop on making wind chimes from the bamboo she finds growing in the ditches near her home. Carolyn Hill enthralled us with her lively music workshop. She encouraged us in new ways of listening to and presenting old hymns by involving us in using instruments.

The St. Andrew's WMS served a delicious lunch of soup and sandwiches as well as the coffee, tea, and muffins at gathering time.

Lois Wilson from Oro wrote the following psalm:

The clouds above us show God's might
They change shapes day by day.
Sometimes they show that storms will come
And so suggest we pray.

When sunshine shines upon the clouds,
There may be colours bright.
And when the moon is covered up,
How dark becomes the night!

The heavenly glories speak to us.
They lift our thoughts on high.
No matter what events occur
We know our God is nigh.

(How's that for a half-hour workshop?!?)

Ms. Robertson concluded the stimulating day with closing worship and communion. The communion wine was in a teacup and the wafers were arranged around the saucer. We encouraged each other with the words of communion as we passed the teacup and dipped our wafers. It proved to be a very meaningful way to complete a rich and full day.

June Campbell

On September 26, 60 WMS members met for the **Bruce-Grey** Presbyterial fall rally at Geneva Church, Chesley, ON. Alice Poland, Presbyterial President, chaired the meeting. The Rev. Alex McCombie welcomed us and group President Ruth McCombie spoke briefly of the facilities and layout of the church.

During the business session, Owen Sound offered to sponsor the Gladys Sims Children's Rally in May 2007. The Rev. Anne Yee Hibbs introduced the "Water as a Gift" study.

How fortunate we are to have the Great Lakes system within our living sphere!

The Rev. Creola Simpson of Tweedsmuir Presbyterian, Orangeville, introduced guest speaker John Meek. Through PWS&D, Mr. Meek is involved with "Aids in Africa." Mr. Meek stated that the country of Malawi is roughly the same size as Ontario yet it has one million orphans. In some cases, grandmothers must look after their grandchildren when both parents have died of AIDS. In many cases, children as young as ten must care for their younger siblings. Orphanages are in need of more assistance. Mr. Meek is a part-time farmer involved with the Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB). One project of CFGB is to ship wheat to specific countries where there are good contacts. He assured us that the Canadian contingent has repeatedly heard the gratitude of those receiving assistance. The enormity of the issues facing people living with AIDS seems to increase. Yet Mr. Meek stated that with our consistent assistance, we are making a difference.

Eva Metler

The members of **East Toronto** Presbyterial were greeted with coffee, tea, and delicious muffins as they gathered for their annual Christmas meeting at Knox, Agincourt, on November 25. Katherine Allen and pianist Anna Cook led the Advent and Christmas carol singing. Ina Hill led the worship service which emphasized the true meaning of Christmas and the necessary Advent season preparations.

President Doris McAndless introduced members of the St. Andrew's Scarborough mission team who had participated in a two-week mission tour of Eastern Europe. Margaret Maciver gave a very informative and moving slide presentation outlining their experiences in Romania, Hungary, and Ukraine. There was also an opportunity to see a display of handcrafts and memorabilia from the countries. International Ministries staff person David Pandy-Szekeres is in Canada with his family and spoke of the challenges of working in Ukraine and the need for continued prayerful support. David coordinates trained missionaries who work among the minority Hungarian population in city hospitals, with gypsies in rural and urban areas, and with child evangelism. He is also a development officer of Christian schools.

The meeting closed with prayers of thanksgiving for the work of Christ which is continuing around the world despite oppression and hardships.

Priscilla Anderson

The **Huron Perth** Presbyterial Fall Rally held at St. Andrew's in Stratford on September 26. The theme was "Take the Message Out." Chairperson Janet Gibson led in the call to worship with a responsive reading and the WMS purpose was read in unison.

Area Education Consultant, the Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, introduced the workshop "The Sabbath" and divided us into small groups for discussion. Ms. Yee-Hibbs presented a certificate of recognition to Caven WMS who have disbanded. Lois Horne gave us an informative book review.

WMS President's Itinerary
Margaret McGillivray

March 4–6	Life and Mission Agency Meeting, Creiff Hills, ON
March 13	St. Giles Kingsway, Toronto, ON (afternoon)
	Hamilton Presbyterial, Hamilton, ON (evening)
March 18	Mission Awareness Sunday, South Gate Presbyterian, Hamilton, ON
March 25–27	Assembly Council, Crieff Hills, ON
March 27–28	Meeting with Executive Director and WMS Staff, Toronto, ON
April 2–15	Taiwan (**tentative dates)
April 16–18	South Korea (**tentative dates)
May 6–9	WMS Council, Crieff Hills, ON
May 9	Kirkwall/Crieff WMS groups, ON
June 3–7	General Assembly, Waterloo, ON

Motherwell Avonbank PCS held a produce and bake sale at the noon hour. Proceeds went to the Jobat School in India. "The Four Steps," a southern gospel group from Stratford, got the afternoon session off to a good start. Eunice Bissett and Jean Sangster of Goderich WMS led the devotions. Several women from Goderich dressed in humorous costumes for a fashion show.

The afternoon guest speaker, Saralyn Lichty, spoke about the orphanages in which she has helped and gave a list of articles they need.

Bessie Thompson

The fall meeting of the **Montreal** Presbyterial was held on September 23 at Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Beaconsfield, QC. The host minister, the Rev. Derek Macleod, welcomed the group and gave the history of the church. Mr. Macleod's meditation was entitled "Drops of Water, Grains of Sand." The constitution of the meeting was done by President Genieve Holding. After the business and announcements, Peggy Wegrich led us in an exercise break.

Our speakers were Mr. Macleod and the Rev. Glynis Williams of Actions Refugiées de Montréal. They spoke of their experiences in Mexico. Lois Klempa gave an interesting presentation on the 40th anniversary of the Ordination of Women in Canada. After lunch, the ladies of Côte des Neiges Presbyterian Church led the hymn singing. Anita Mack led an

interesting program on the story of the woman at the well and welcoming the stranger. It was a very enjoyable day.

Lorna Smith

The fall rally of the **Sarnia** Presbyterial was held at Laurel Lea St. Matthew's Presbyterian on October 19. The forty attendees enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon.

Margaret MacDonald gave an informative book review. She whetted our book-buying appetite by reporting on several books which had been sent down from the Book Room in Toronto. Singing was led by Suzanne Mater and accompanied by Marilyn Shaw on the piano.

The guest speakers, the Rev. Wallace and Mrs. Audrey Little, brought colourful slides of their service to a Presbyterian Church in Malawi, Africa. The church had a total of 10,000 members and held three morning services with 3000 in attendance at the three sessions—6:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

In the Society provides an opportunity for members to share some of the ideas God has given for the promotion of Mission Education in our Women's Missionary Society (WMS) Auxiliaries or Presbyterials. You could send in things such as:

- meetings that went particularly well, and which might work for others
- special group projects that are going well and might work for others
- ways of recruiting new members to your auxiliaries
- effective use of *Glad Tidings* articles in your meetings and promoting readership of this magazine
- local or area outreach projects that you've supported
- thoughts on special fund-raising efforts
- passing on mission information and enthusiasm to your own congregations
- using resources (guest speakers, devotional materials, etc.) in your meetings.

How did these enhance your meeting?

You may imagine that your "inspirations" are too small to count or that it sounds like boasting to tell of things that worked in your auxiliary. Your small idea might be just what God can use to bless another WMS group. The Bible says we have all been given different gifts from the Lord (Romans 12:6) to be used to serve each other. Let's give God the credit and pass God's ideas to others.

Adapted with permission from Sheena Findlay of the Atlantic Missionary Society. First published in The Presbyterian Message.

services, and 300 at the 10:00 a.m. service—just incredible! They vividly presented their personal experiences and duties as missionaries in Malawi.

They hadn't been in Malawi long before they recognized the need for a secondary school for young girls. They returned to Canada and convinced 21 volunteers to travel at their own expense in order to build a school that would accommodate 200 girls. One couple was moved by the girls' need to travel a half mile for clean water, so they donated $5000 U.S. to have a well drilled on school property. As a result of their efforts, the entire village has access to fresh, clean water.

Many Christian churches in Malawi sponsor free daycare for infants to children aged six. All of the children involved have lost their parents from HIV/AIDS. These daycare centres operate from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day and offer the children three meals a day. The food provided is a cereal mixture made from the flour provided by the Canadian Food Grains Bank. The children learn songs, games, and personal hygiene during the school day.

The closing devotion was led by the women from Laurel Lea and the theme was "Bread From a Broken World."

Beverly Cassel

Local

The Jean Brown McClenaghan Evening Auxiliary of St. Andrew's **Corunna**, Ontario, celebrated their 50th Anniversary on October 1 with a special church service. Dorothy Neil was the guest speaker. Many former members and Presbyterial members attended. Three charter members, Joyce McLachlin, Mary Thomson, and Betty Threndyle were presented with golden dove pins. The Rev. Dan Roushorne dedicated a set of pulpit falls which were a gift from the WMS group. The church choir performed special music for the service. Immediately following the service, an enjoyable luncheon provided an opportunity for fellowship.

Joyce McLachlim, Betty Threndyle, Catharine McKenna, Mary Thompson, Dorothy Neal, and Joan Wagner at St. Andrew's 50th Anniversary

Beth Nutt

It is Thanksgiving tradition that the members of the Knox Church WMS, **Morrisburg**, conduct the Sunday service. This year, all members participated

in the October 22 service by welcoming church members and guests at the door, reading scriptures and prayers, as well as gathering the offering.

The Rev. Arlene Onuoha was the guest speaker. She painted an outstanding picture of her life and work in Nigeria. Her first posting as a Deaconess with the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria began in 1978. She served in educational positions and taught diaconal workers and ministers. She obtained her B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Waterloo in 1987. In 1997, Arlene completed courses of study at Knox College and was ordained in November of that year. Presently, she serves on a number of committees which deal with human rights, the empowerment of women and citizens, as well as in other areas of great need being addressed by God's representatives. She is a truly amazing woman and held the congregation firmly on her plane as she described the changing social and political scenes in Nigeria.

A delicious luncheon was served by the WMS after the service and we had the opportunity to visit with our guest. We wish Arlene a happy and enlightened time while in Canada. We shall follow her ministry with interest and concern as she continues to serve The Presbyterian Church in Canada with her many talents and strong devotion to her faith.

Margaret Thom

On October 29, **Thornhill** Presbyterian WMS celebrated their Thankoffering Service. Our special guest speaker was the Moderator of the 132nd General Assembly, Wilma Welsh. It was a great day for Thornhill as the mission work of the congregation and church was highlighted. A WMS Life Membership was presented to a valued member, Margaret Black. Six Pins of Recognition were presented to our Associate Members.

Jane Easton

Local group treasurer Audrey Smith, National group treasurer Wilma Welsh, and Myrna Smith

Jane Easton, local President, Carolyn Adamson, one of our Associate Members, recognized, Margaret Black, and Wilma Welsh

Marilyn Leslie, Shirley Barnhart, the Rev. Guy Sinclair, the Rev. Linda Paquette, and Margaret Hicks at St. Andrew's, Welland on Mission Awareness Sunday. The Rev. Linda Paquette was the guest speaker from Rockwood Presbyterian Church. She spoke of her trip to several African countries where she witnessed what our church is doing to help people who suffer from HIV/AIDS.

Helen Walker received her Honorary WMS Membership during the Mission Awareness Sunday at Knox, North Easthope. Helen (left) received her certificate from WMS President Florence Fawcett.

The Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs and Wilma Welsh lead Communion at Crieff in October. Twenty-one women from the Niagara Presbyterial WMS participated. The theme was "Mission Possible."

WMS members from St. Timothy's, Ajax enjoye a tasty potluck luncheon using recipes dating back to Biblical times. This was the culminatio of our interesting Horizon Bible Study entitled "What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture

Forward in Faith

Visitors from the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

The WMS was privileged to have two visitors from Taiwan, the Rev. Lillian Ni-Ling Lin, Women's Work Secretary for the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) and the Rev. Ibu Kanbudan, a minister in a Bunan aboriginal congregation, during the month of November.

While in Canada, Lillian and Ibu travelled from Vancouver to Montreal and shared the story of women's work within our partner Church, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. During November's Council Executive meeting, it was decided that the WMS will organize a mission exposure trip to Taiwan for approximately 14 women. The group will accompany me as I represent The Presbyterian Church in Canada as Moderator at the meeting of the General Assembly of the PCT.

The approximate dates of the trip will be from April 2 to 17. The General Assembly of the PCT will open on the Tuesday after Easter. The focus of the General Assembly will be on Women's Work and the issue of Gender Justice. The leadership will encourage women from all church districts and presbyteries to participate. What a wonderful opportunity for the WMS to learn, share, and encourage our sisters in Taiwan.

It is our hope that a group of women will come to Canada on a return visit. We can continue to learn from each other.

Blessings, Wilma Welsh, Treasurer

Ibu, Alexis McKeown, Pauline Lindsay, and Ni-Ling visiting Niagara Falls

Betty Siverns, Margaret McGillivray, Ibu, Ni-Ling, Wilma Welsh, and Druse Bryan at WMS meeting in British Columbia

Ibu, Nan Budding, Ni-Ling, and Sarah Kim at Evangel Hall, Toronto

Circulation News

Katherine Allen

We are always trying to find ways to encourage others to read *Glad Tidings* and increase subscriptions. If you are planning a special event, meeting, or Mission Awareness Sunday, we can supply you with up to 50 copies of *Glad Tidings*.

Glad Tidings covers a wide range of issues and ideas. Some of the articles featured in 2006 issues include:

- Mission trips to Japan (January/February, p.19) and Malawi (July/August, p.7)
- An article about the artist Emily Carr and her sanctuary (May/June, p.4)
- The 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Presbyterian Church in Canada (September/October, p.18–23)
- "Mission in Action" contained letters from PCC mission staff. Alan and Rosalie Howard, for example, wrote about how they celebrated the Christmas season in India (March/April, p.33)
- The treasurer reports "Forward in Faith" which focused on the various mission projects, such as Canada Youth 2006 (September/October, p.45) and Camping Ministries (November/December, p.45) that were enabled because of WMS grants

Take some time to highlight items in *Glad Tidings* to encourage others to read and learn more about the mission work of the church and the WMS.

Changing your name or address? New subscriber?

Use this form to send a change of address, or to forward a new subscription. If you are moving, please let us know at least six weeks before.
(For renewals, contact the *Glad Tidings* Secretary of your local group.)

Change of address/ New subscriber (please circle)

Name:_____ **Name of Church:**_____

Address:_____

_____ **Phone:**_____

Payment

Subscription rate: $12.00 (including GST) for 2007 (GST registration #107856783)

Amount enclosed $_____ (make cheque payable to *Glad Tidings*)

Credit card number:_____ **Expiry date:**_____

□ **Visa** □ **MasterCard** **Signature** _____

Clip out and forward to: *Glad Tidings* Circulation, 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
Phone: 416-441-1111 ext.326 or 1-800-619-7301 Fax: 416-441-2825
e-mail: kallen@presbyterian.ca

continued from page 37

Roy graduated from Knox College in Toronto with a Bachelor of Divinity. Roy then studied at New College, Edinburgh, Scotland, where he received his Masters of Theology in 1973. Roy completed his studies with a Doctor of Ministry from the Toronto School of Theology in 1985.

Although Roy spent his entire career from 1961 to 1998 with The Presbyterian Church in Canada, his ministry began in Nigeria. The Nigerian Civil war of 1967 cut his missionary work short so Roy, Beverly, and their three small children returned to Canada where he served as minister until his retirement. Roy pastored in rural and urban Ontario communities, including Cannington, Shakespeare, Toronto and Mississauga. He spent 17 years as Minister of St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Peterborough, Ontario before moving to Lethbridge, Alberta, to serve as Regional Staff as Administrative Coordinator of the Synod of Alberta from 1996 to 1999.

Above all, Roy was devoted to his family and we will all miss his gentle wisdom, dependability, and optimism.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ivy Lois Cloakey
Knox, Belgrave, ON

Hope Siple
Marion Augusta Young
Strathcona, Burlington, ON

Mrs. Catherine V. McRae
Kenyon, Dunvegan, ON

Bernadine Hussack
Caledonia, Caledonia, ON

Marlene Bell
Carmel, Hensall, ON

Mrs. Myrtle Percy
Mrs. Mabel McEwan
Mrs. Betty Johnson
Kinlough, Holyrood, ON

Geraldine Rutherford
Janet Hogarth
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON

Mrs. Norine Swatridge
St. Georges, London, ON

Catherine Ross MacDonald
St. Andrew's, Orillia, ON

Mrs. Flora Bethune
St. Andrew's, Saskatoon, SK

Mrs. Audrey Ingram
St. Andrew's, Scarborough, ON

Inga Smith
Stettler, AB

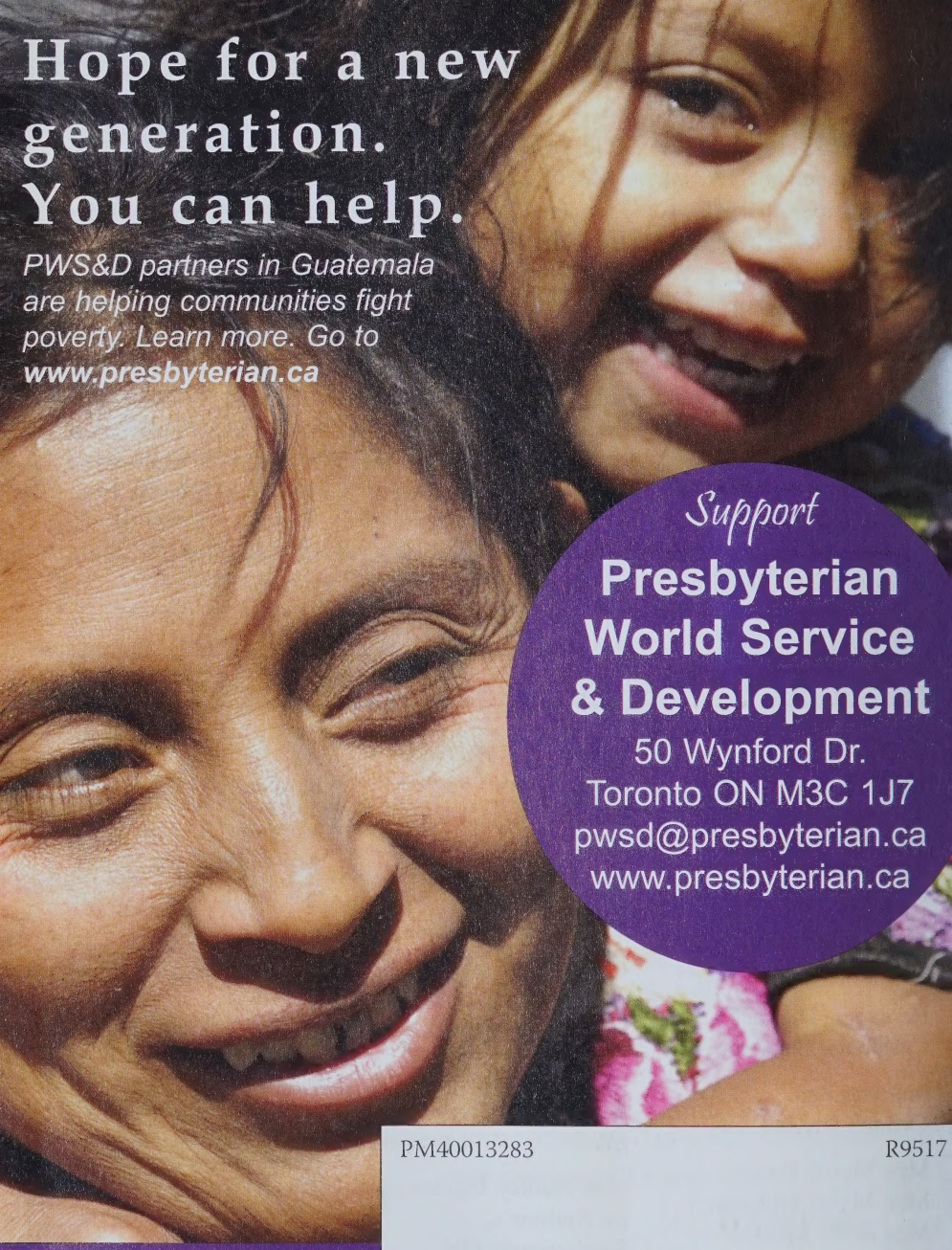
Margaret Tidman
Armour Heights, Toronto, ON

Jean Annie Reid
Kerrisdale, Vancouver, BC

Ornetta Camden
Evelyn Brown
Betty Rose
St. Andrew's, Welland, ON

Jessie Isabel Hamilton
Knox, Listowel, ON

Marie Shelly
Kerrisdale, Vancouver, BC


Hope for a new generation.
You can help.
PWS&D partners in Guatemala are helping communities fight poverty. Learn more. Go to www.presbyterian.ca
Support
Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr.
Toronto ON M3C 1J7
pwsd@presbyterian.ca
www.presbyterian.ca

PM40013283 R9517

Please report any errors/changes in address

Glad Tidings

May/June 2007

Contents

Features

4 **From Generation to Generation** . . . *Maureen Walter*
7 **Mother—a poem** . . . . . *Lini R. Grol*
8 **Retreats** . . . . . *Marylu Pentelow*
10 **Quiet Days** . . . . . *Anna Pandy-Szekeres*
12 **Peace in Liberia** . . . . . *Rev. Ruth Houtby*
17 **With Open Eyes—a poem** . . . . . *Elizabeth Nelson*
18 **Mission Partnership & Friendship** *Alexis McKeown*
20 **Let Us Pray** . . . . . *Doris M. Johnston*
22 **India Photos** . . . . .
24 **Multi-Generational Activities** . . . . . *Alexis McKeown*
34 **The Twelve—a puzzle** . . . . . *Jim Phillips*
37 **Honorary Certificates/Certificates of Recognition**
46 **House of God—a poem** . . . . . *Judith Frost*

Regulars

3 **Message From the President** . . . . .
15 **Time for Justice!** . . . . .
27 **News** . . . . .
26 **Reviews** . . . . .
28 **Mission in Action** . . . . . *Barclay-MacKay, Howard, Johnston, Shaw*
35 **Readers Write** . . . . .
36 **In Memoriam** . . . . .
38 **In the Society** . . . . .
45 **Forward in Faith** . . . . . *Wilma Welsh*
46 **Circulation News** . . . . . *Katherine Allen*
47 **In Remembrance** . . . . .

Cover Photo: The women of The Institute for Development Education, Chennai, welcoming their Canadian visitors. Taken by Sarah Kim.

Glad Tidings

May/June 2007
Volume 81, No. 3

EDITOR
SONYA HENDERSON
DESIGN
ALEXIS McKEOWN
CIRCULATION MANAGER
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to the circulation department at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7. Phone (416) 441-1111. Fax (416) 441-2825. E-mail Editorial shenderson@presbyterian.ca. Circulation kallen@presbyterian.ca. Publications mail registration number 09517. ISSN: 00170720.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

Canada

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

Subscription rate $12.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $2.00. WMS members should send their subscriptions through their group *Glad Tidings* Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from *Glad Tidings*. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to *Glad Tidings*.

Glad Tidings reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

Glad Tidings challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

Glad Tidings through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GladTidings provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

Margaret McGillivray

Message From the President

It hardly seems possible that three years have flown by so quickly and my term as President of the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) has come to an end.

This position has been a humbling and life-changing experience for me. It has certainly been a marvelous opportunity and learning experience to connect with our mission partners as the WMS representative in Canada and overseas. God has been so very good to me and has provided me with good health and extra stamina as I travelled to visit with our groups and congregations.

I could not have fulfilled this position without the love and support of my husband Norm, the friendships and fellowship of my home congregation at Knox, Dundas, especially the members of the Sarah Dunning WMS, and my current congregation at Knox, Goderich. Sincere thanks to the WMS staff at Wynford Drive.

I was pleased that numerous congregations invited me to speak at their Mission Awareness Sunday services and this certainly helped to raise the profile of the WMS.

Thank you for allowing me to make some "changes": from the new look of our T-shirts to the "Travels with the President" article in *Glad Tidings*. WMS Mission Exposure trips generated much excitement for us all. We have visited with our partners in the Korean Christian Church in Japan and the Mayan women in Guatemala. This spring, we will travel to Taiwan to attend their General Assembly and visit our mission partners in that country.

I have been most fortunate to meet so many marvelous WMS members across Canada. I send my love and blessings to each of you in the years ahead.

With faith and friendship,
Margaret

From Generation to Generation

Rev. Maureen Walter

In 1992, my mother and I took my infant daughter Rachel to Alberta to meet her great-grandmother. My mother radiated joy as she showed her first grandchild to her mother. My grandmother, no longer capable of speaking, could only emit signals of distress that we not let the alien baby creature pull her hair. Two weeks after our visit, my mother returned to Calgary for her mother's funeral.

My grandmother was sent to work as a child. Denied an education as a teenager, my grandmother travelled across the world at 14 to start a new life for herself. Among other difficulties, she survived abuse, abandonment, poverty, and illness to ultimately raise three daughters to successful adulthood. Her only regret in life was losing a daughter who died in infancy. Everything else she took in her stride. I often saw her survey a room full of her family and sigh in satisfaction. "I came here alone, and look what I created," she would gloat, swinging her arm in a wide gesture to generously include us all.

For a mere six months of Rachel's life, we were four generations on earth together. Neither the oldest nor the youngest comprehended that significance. A picture of the four of us shows the celebration of the moment. We pass on our wisdom and love from generation to generation. My grandmother's courage, tenacity, smarts, and generosity of spirit live on—recognizable even in my younger daughter, who never met her at all.

My earliest memory is of playing in the sun while my mother dug up a new garden bed. The girl across the street twirled and her hair shone black in the sun. The world was safe, secure, and beautiful. But cracks in the image of the perfect mother appear early. On another sunny day when I was no more than four, I decided to take my brother out for a walk. My aim was to walk around the block to our front yard. We had almost meandered our way up to the top of the lane when my mother appeared around the corner. She and I came face to face in an instant. She looked so young and scared. For a brief moment, my child self stretched into the adult arena of understanding. I knew it was me who had scared her. No words were needed—although I am sure I heard a few. I don't recall them. I only remember the relief as it flooded her face.

On another day a decade later, I came home devastated by the meanness of a boy at school. I was all long legs and arms. Nevertheless, I managed to crawl into my mother's arms as she sat on our rocking chair, and bury my face in her shoulder to sob my heart out. "Why was nothing I did ever right? Why did people hate me? Why didn't anyone like me?" After a while, I felt a little better. She made me go back to school the next day. It wasn't as bad as I had feared!

My mother was with me when I preached my first sermon. I anticipated praise from her but her comment was: "I couldn't hear what you said very well." "But I'm a girl, Mom," I protested, "I don't have a big voice." "There's no point in you getting into a pulpit if people can't hear what you say," she admonished. "If you can't figure out how to make yourself heard, don't bother talking." I heard her. It

turned out to be the most important thing anyone ever told me about preaching. Thirty years later, people still tell me they are glad they can hear me when I preach. "Every word!" they say, surprised. I tell them to thank my mother.

"Guess what happened today?" one or the other of my daughters begins. "Tell me about it," I answer (on a good day!). When I talk to my daughters, the words are different than the ones my mother used, and sometimes the ideas too. What is the same is the effort to keep the conversation going. In my daughters' opinion, my answers often appear to fall short of the mark. And yet they both keep talking to me, even when I am obviously clueless.

"Your mother is no dummy," one of my legal colleagues said to me, apparently surprised, after she'd met Mom—as if motherhood and intellect were diametrically opposed concepts. That's not my experience! Motherhood constantly demands my best thinking skills. My mother is a brilliant woman: a theologian, writer, skillful pastor, and an extraordinary gardener. I am not alone in writing admiringly of her.

My mother has been with me—or helped dissect afterwards—many of my life experiences. Her insight, comfort, and jokes have helped me grow spiritually. I have girlfriends who are not so fortunate. Some have gone through years of difficult times with their mothers or suffered through incidents that a neutral observer might surmise indicated a lack of love between mother and daughter. It is a funny thing that as they enter into middle age, even these women have been able to find a truce with their mothers. To carefully plan and work for a mother's best care after years of harshness must take special gifts of compassion and love.

My mother and I have found better than truce. We have found conversation. Perhaps the people who help us to grow are simply the ones who are willing to talk to us. "Are you going to go to bed tonight?" my husband always asks wryly, when my mother visits, "Or are the two of you going to talk all night again?" I don't know why he bothers asking—he knows the answer. While we are together, we will sit up and talk. Maybe we will have decades more—maybe not. As long as we can, once everyone else has gone to bed, we settle in for a little chat. In the welter of conversation, wisdom springs up. More to the point, I enjoy the time I have.

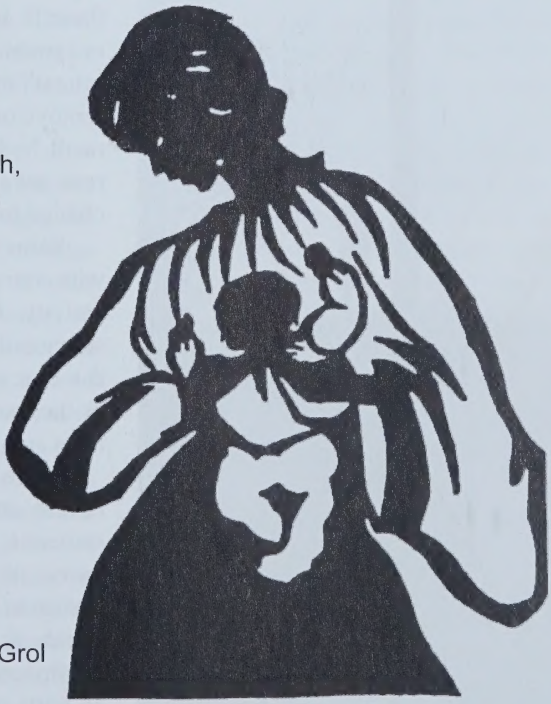
The Rev. Maureen Walter is an ordained minister, and she is also a lawyer. She lives in Toronto with her husband Richard Johnston and their two daughters, Rachael and Maeve Johnston, and attends Morningside

High-Park Presbyterian Church. She has served on the National Women in Ministry committee, the editorial committee of Women's Perspectives newsletter, and assisted in the preparation of the Policy for Dealing with Complaints of Sexual Abuse and Harassment.

Pictures:

1 **Cecilia Doreen Tillisch (my grandmother), JoAnne Walter (my mother), Maureen Walter (me), and my daughter, Rachel JoAnne Walter Johnston.**
2 **My grandmother's three daughters, Mavis Vernie Duncan, JoAnne Walter, and Maureen Fair.**
3 **Cecilia Doreen Tillisch, taken sometime in the mid sixties. We all called her Nan. Those who used the "G" word (grandmother) near her did so at their peril—she was a youthful grandmother and didn't want to feel older than she was!**
4 **Maureen Walter with her two daughters, Rachel JoAnne Walter Johnston and Maeve Robin Walter Johnston.**

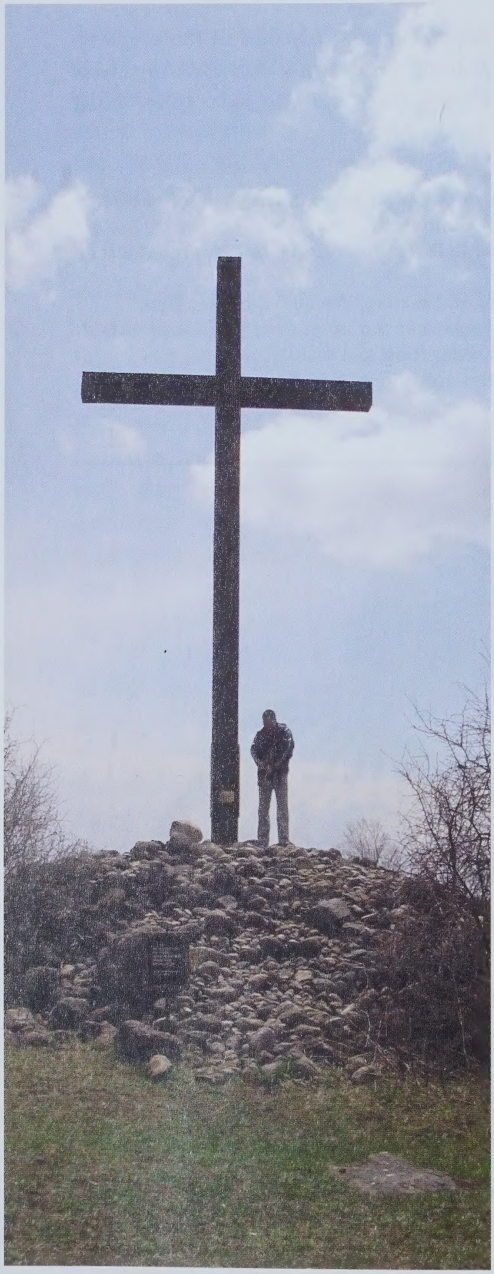
Mother



Words pop up in our speech,
thoughts calmly expressed,
that suddenly startle us
into the awareness
that these thoughts
are not ours, but hers.

They are the very seeds
of her thoughts,
the thoughts behind
her deeds
that she has sown
ever since
she conceived us.

Lini R. Grol



"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

(Mark 6:31, NIV)

Marylu Pentelow

Living in North America, we often find our days filled richly with many different activities. In fact, the line between comfortably busy and totally hectic is easily crossed. Into this life of abundance, sometimes referred to as "the rat race," there is a need in each of us to withdraw or retreat. According to the dictionary "to retreat" means "to safely and temporarily remove oneself from one's usual environment." Finding the time and place for rest away from the ordinary allows change to happen within us.

Some people have their first encounter with retreats as part of a youth group activity. In a sense, summer camp is a structured retreat for children and youth. It is a time away from the city, farm, school, or the many activities that make up their lives.

There are many places to go for a retreat and just as many reasons why someone, or a group, may wish to get away. At Crieff Hills Community, the Christian Retreat and Conference Centre, which is owned and operated by The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we see all sorts of people who come for retreat.

We see large and small groups, families, individuals, highly active groups, and those who come in silence. Whatever the group and the reason for retreat, people want to leave the comfort of the known and take time away.

Some groups choose to go on retreat with the purpose of developing individual bonds between the members. Sharing in a time of retreat will strengthen the sense of unity within a group. Fun and good times can be a highlight for those attending while less noticeable to the participants is the intentional planning done by their leaders—seemingly simple guidelines for community life, such as subtly directing the group in food preparation and clean-up, or planning and leading games. These activities challenge all group members to work together, play together, and ultimately build a more cohesive group.

The structured "educational" part of a retreat is a stepping stone or a theme around which the activities might be planned. This is the launching pad of ideas which might be supplemented by a work project, a quiet walk, initiative tasks, or many other program events that direct the focus of the members as they work toward new understandings. When returning home, the members have new insights into each other. They have shared a common experience; they have lived together; and they have grown in faith and life. Whether the retreat is organized around a theme or simply a time away with others, the value is tied significantly to personal growth, growth in faith knowledge, and beautiful life-long relationships.

Another area of retreating is that of a personal retreat. We all have daily demands and may choose to go away for rest, renewal, and healing. Some look for time away from a particularly hectic life at work or at home. Others are less concerned with a break from their usual routines and are more focused on private time to respond to the demands of change or to seek new direction. Whether a retreat is a time of solitude and reflection or an opportunity to look ahead, individuals seek a safe and inviting place that allows for rest and renewal.

Some retreats are experienced in silence. This is an opportunity to take time to listen, concentrate, and meditate on God in silence. It is a time when many look into themselves and seek new understanding. This, in the midst of a fast-paced and demanding lifestyle offers solitude and refreshment.

Jesus is an example for us in our need to withdraw from time to time. In his busy life of responding to the people around him, he too sought quietness and solitude. "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (Mark 6:31, NIV)

A directed, silent retreat takes advantage of a leader experienced in assisting participants to centre their thoughts and open their minds and hearts. People move from their life of excitement, noise, and anxiety, to a place that allows for opening and listening. Always, it is a time for restfulness, reflection, and faith building.

The reasons for going on a retreat vary widely. The locations for retreats are as

continued on page 35

Quiet Days

Anna Pandy-Szekeres

The kerchief-covered ladies happily sing the much-beloved hymns. Their hands, strengthened by a lifetime of farming, turn the pages of the Bible all so easily. These women are part of a Hungarian minority in sub-Carpathian Ukraine. I met them in 1991 when I first crossed the Hungarian-Ukrainian border. I, too, grew up within the ranks of a Hungarian minority—but in Romania, where my family belonged to the Reformed Church of Transylvania. Before the First World War, both Transylvania and sub-Carpathian Ukraine belonged to one country—Hungary. What I found on my first trip to sub-Carpathian Ukraine was all too familiar to me: poverty visible from the street, city houses in disrepair, and the mantle of poverty hanging over the villages. Yet inside the individual garden gates were clean and welcoming houses with gardens and fields which were starting to regain their fruitful condition they once had before the communist period.

Life was difficult for the Hungarian Reformed Church of sub-Carpathian Ukraine under the communist regime. The faithful were persecuted because of their beliefs. Faithful pastors were taken to labour camps; faithful women were imprisoned for their beliefs; faithful youth were not allowed to enroll in schools; and faithful Christians were unemployed—teachers, engineers, and medical doctors never dared to enter a church for fear of persecution. And, a generation grew up not being allowed to go to church and not being baptized.

Our Lord helped preserve the church and gave strength to the faithful during these trying times. In order to maintain their faith, people had to meet and celebrate in private. Christian holy times, such as Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, became secret celebrations honoured within the walls of the family home. Grandmothers and mothers passed on their faith in secret. They preserved the ancient hymns. When hymn books were no longer available, they passed the sacred songs on to their children and grandchildren orally. These women, whose husbands and fathers died in Stalin's concentration camps, kept the Bible verses in their hearts. They treasured, shared, and taught them to the next generation. In this way, the grandmothers and mothers became the secret life-blood of the Hungarian Reformed Church. Their faith and courage kept the church alive.

Now that the communist regime is at an end, the faithful of the church can celebrate their faith and foster their spiritual growth openly. One way that

the Hungarian Reformed Church fosters spiritual growth is through the tradition of "Quiet Days": a time of retreat when Christians meet to pray, sing hymns, hear scripture, and to learn and share. During the communist regime, this tradition was kept alive through secret meetings in peoples' homes. In order to take part, people travelled long distances by train or by foot. They longed so much for the Lord that they put their fear of being caught by the police aside.

After the fall of the communist regime, it became possible to actively and openly participate in the tradition of "Quiet Days" again. To this end, the sub-Carpathian Reformed Church built several retreat centres with the help of the Dutch Reformed Church. Some "Quiet Days" retreats for women start on a Monday and extend through to Friday. Generally, these weeks are organized during the fall, winter, and spring months so as not to interfere with the farming season. The program is led by several ministers. They chose one topic upon which the sermons, lectures, and discussions are based. Topics included: What does the Bible teach about women's role in the family, and in society?; New Age; sects; examples of faithfulness in the Bible; Jesus' parables, etc.

Participating in "Quiet Days" is a time away. It is a time for reflection, for learning, and for building community. It is an opportunity to sit in a pew with one of the grandmothers who kept the Hungarian Reformed Church alive during the times of communism. It is an opportunity to learn about the grace of our Lord, to pray, and to sing together. It is good to see a new generation settling into the pews. Our Lord had blessed the faithful grandmothers. God has answered their prayers.

Prayer request:

Please pray for guidance and wisdom for David and Anna as they return to their life and work in sub-Carpathian Ukraine.

Please pray for the teachers, students, and approximately 700 graduates of the Christian Schools of the Hungarian Reformed Church.

Please pray for our young missionaries working in Ukraine.

Anna and David Pandy-Szekeres have worked with the Hungarian Reformed Church in sub-Carpathian Ukraine since 1993. They were involved in founding three Christian Secondary Schools, a school for Roma children, and a Training School for Missionaries. They have worked with International Ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada since 2000. They have three children—Aron, Daniel, and Julianna.

PEACE IN LIBERIA

Rev. Ruth Houtby

It was illusive for so many years...but peace has come at last to war-torn Liberia. After 14 years of civil war, the country is at peace and rebuilding in the wake of terror and destruction.

Liberia stands for liberty—liberty from slavery, liberty from oppression. But the recent history of this West African country is anything but peace and harmony. War Lords, child soldiers, and corrupt governments have been more the lay of the land…but now it's over and hope is cresting like the waves of the mighty Atlantic that pound the shoreline of its capital city, Monrovia. It's still not terribly safe but the guns have stopped shooting and the knives have been put down. There is peace in the land and rehabilitation has begun.

Last April, I was privileged to travel to this land of liberty to attend a Post-Election Consultation which was sponsored by KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. My travelling partner was Dr. Jim Davis, the Program Coordinator for KAIROS' Africa Partnerships Program.

Great hope and expectation is being placed on the new government as Liberia celebrates 159 years of independence. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is the new President and the first woman ever elected in an African nation. Last year's elections ended a brutal 14-year civil war. Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf has her work cut out for her in fulfilling her promise to rebuild the resource-rich country. In less than a year, however, she has managed to restore a sense of peace and civility to the country. After years of war, the infrastructure was completely destroyed, and the country had been in the dark for many, many years. Now, the lights are back on! Powered by generators, street lights in Monrovia once again illumine the dark night and bring safety to the citizens.

As the light dispels the darkness, so the period of gloom and darkness engendered by political turmoil is coming to an end through the restoration of power to Liberia.

Since my visit, not only are the lights back on, but tapped water has also become available in the war-torn capital. Yet the process of restoring the infrastructure is slow. After decades of misrule, Liberia's road network is still in ruins, and there is no national telephone network or national electricity grid. However, the people of Liberia are determined to keep peace this time around. They know that lasting peace must be their mandate and that it is the citizens that have to make it work.

The Post-Election Consultation was hosted and sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA) and funded by KAIROS Canada. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is a contributing member to KAIROS. Our dollars are at work to keep the peace, and to help local Liberian church leaders and leaders from many of the West African nations learn from the recent election experience in Liberia, and understand the critical and necessary role that the church plays in civil society.

The church is indeed an integral part of West African society. This

became more than evident during the course of the Post-Election Consultation when a delegation of 20 West African church leaders, who were attending the conference, was invited to an audience with the newly-elected President. Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf was warm and gracious, welcoming us to the Executive Mansion, listening to our statements, and addressing the delegation herself. She was motivated, hopeful, and thankful for the support of the church in Liberia.

Although The Presbyterian Church in Canada is not partnered with the Presbyterian Church in Liberia, I was fortunate to meet and worship with their Moderator, Clerk, and other members. The Presbyterian Church in Liberia struggles to rebuild after the war. It is a small denomination. They, too, have felt the effects of terror and war. A visit to a once-thriving mission station in the heart of the most beautiful countryside brought home more of the devastation of war. The station is now derelict. Destroyed, burnt out, and collapsing buildings sit unused and unsafe. About 50,000 people live in the bush in the surrounding area. Children used to live and learn on these grounds. All is quiet now…there are no children running and playing in the open air or studying within the walls. And yet it is a beautiful place—calm and serene. It is a piece of heaven on earth in the midst of the African wilderness. It's not hard to imagine it full of life and laughter as it once was, and to dream and hope that it will one day return to its former glory. The land is glorious. God blessed it with richness and lushness, with fertile rich soil and forests ripe with life.

I came away from Liberia and my exposure to the church there with hope for the people and for the country. The road ahead is the brightest it's been in many, many years. I also hope that by playing a role in the post-election conference the church leaders of West Africa will be able to learn and implement some of what the church in Liberia was able to accomplish during this last election. It is not only Liberia that has experienced the strife of civil war. There is relative peace in West Africa these days, but it is tenuous at best and could crumble in a very short time. Through KAIROS, the PCC supports the efforts of the churches in West Africa to maintain peace, and to work for lasting democracies and civil societies. Our part may seem small but we have shown our care and concern for the peace and prosperity of Liberia and other West African countries as we support the efforts of KAIROS Canada.

To learn more about KAIROS Canada and their work in Africa, visit www.kairoscanada.org.

Photo: Jana Kia—a young girl living in Jahtondo refugee camp, managed by ACT member Lutheran World Federation (LWF)—helping to fix a shelter which is collapsing under the weight of the rain. Courtesy of Presbyterian World Service & Development.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

Working for Peace

Working for peace is central to the mission of God's people: "we protest the world arms race that diminishes our ability to flight hunger, ignorance, poverty and disease…we pray for peace to him who is the Prince of Peace" (Living Faith 8.5.3). God's plan of restoration to wholeness includes a healing of nations and people. Peace-making is a fundamental component of this healing.

The Presbyterian Church witnesses the destructive impact of small arms in many of the countries where the church supports mission staff and development programs. Small arms fuel and prolong conflict, and contribute to poverty and human rights abuses.

Over 600 million small arms are in global circulation. More than 500,000 people are killed by small arms each year–that's one person every minute. There are no internationally agreed upon regulations to control small arms trade.

In June 2006, the United Nations (UN) Small Arms Review Conference was held. States discussed actions necessary to implement the UN's program of action to control small arms trade. The moderator of the 132nd General Assembly wrote to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to request that the Canadian Government work for an outcome at the Review Conference. While no consensus on an outcome document was reached, in October 2006 the UN voted to begin work on comprehensive, legally binding regulations establishing common international standards to control small arms trade. Canada was a co-sponsor of this resolution. We faithfully continue our work towards a more peaceful world.

Time for Justice! is based on the report of the International Affairs Committee to the 132nd General Assembly, June 2006. The full report is found in Acts & Proceedings 2006. Time for Justice! may be read as a Minute for Mission, or printed as a bulletin insert or newsletter article to inform members of the international concerns of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and ask for their prayerful consideration of these matters.

TEXT: Katharine Masterton EDITING & DESIGN: Gail Turner PRAYER: Wendy Paterson

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

Prayer for Peace

Leader: God of Peace, you call us to be peace-makers and peace-keepers in this wonderful world you created.

People: WE KNOW THIS CAN BE HARD WORK AND WE OFTEN PREFER TO LEAVE IT FOR SOMEBODY ELSE.

Leader: We cannot live abundant lives or achieve our potential until we **are at peace with ourselves and our neighbours.**

People: PEACE IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD THE KINGDOM GOD DESIGNED.

Leader: The existence of weapons and small arms throughout the world reminds us that there is still much work to be done.

People: THERE ARE NO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS TO REGULATE SMALL ARMS TRADE.

Leader: Such weapons produce fear and insecurity even for those who desire to live in peace.

People: AND ONE PERSON IS KILLED EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY YEAR BY SMALL ARMS.

Leader: Reconciling God, we need your wisdom and direction to move away from this senselessness and towards the preservation of life.

All: GIVE US THE WILL AND THE COURAGE TO DO ALL WE CAN TO LIVE PEACEFULLY OURSELVES AND TO PROMOTE PEACE GLOBALLY. IN THE NAME OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE, AMEN

Time for Justice! is based on the report of the International Affairs Committee to the 132nd General Assembly, June 2006. The full report is found in Acts & Proceedings 2006. Time for Justice! may be read as a Minute for Mission, or printed as a bulletin insert or newsletter article to inform members of the international concerns of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and ask for their prayerful consideration of these matters.

TEXT: Katharine Masterton EDITING & DESIGN: Gail Turner PRAYER: Wendy Paterson

With Open Eyes

Elizabeth Nelson

Lord, forgive me if I sometimes pray
With open eyes.
When I am weary of my kitchen walls,
And tired of the daily tasks
That sap my strength,
I go outdoors to pray.
And as I kneel among Thy trees,
I gaze around
And as I pray
I see again the marvel of the wondrous forms
Of leaves and grasses, twigs and vines,
Of silver bark, all flecked with white;
Of butterflies, of ants, and birds.
Oh, Lord, I feel again the pulse of life
And I am still.

In all this minute, ordered life
Of bugs and leaves and birds
That claim their very breath from Thee;
I know that Thou wilt guide my human life,
And set me straight,
And be a Friend to me.

So, Lord, forgive me if I sometimes pray
With open eyes.
All heartache lessens as I gaze
Into the west's low slanting hues;
And as I see those colours blazing bright,
Almost my soul leaps up
And I can see the gates
Of paradise.

Mission Partnership & Friendship

Alexis McKeown

From November 8 to November 23, 2007, the WMS hosted two visitors —the Rev. Ni-Ling Lin and the Rev. Ibu Kanbudan—from the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT). The Rev. Lin works as Program Secretary in the Women's Ministry Committee of the General Assembly of the PCT. Ni-Ling has been working in women's ministry for six years, but has worked for the PCT for 15. Before working for the Women's Ministry Committee, she was a Chaplin at the Taipei Student Centre for higher education (University). The Rev. Kanbudan lives in the eastern part of Taiwan. She is part of the Bunun tribe, an Aboriginal tribe in Taiwan. Ibu's congregation is small and most members are Bunun. She has been serving them for three years in both the Bunun language and Mandarin.

Their trip to Canada was a celebration of a long history, and a renewed friendship. During their time in Canada, Ni-Ling and Ibu travelled from Vancouver to Montreal and spoke to WMS Presbyterials, Synodicals, and preached at Sunday services. Throughout their very full schedule, the women shared their calling, their ministry experiences, and aspects of their lives in Taiwan. From a Canadian perspective, it was interesting to hear about the experiences of Christian women in Taiwan. They shared their stories of Taiwan, the PCT, the Women's Ministry Committee,

nnipeg

Saskatoon

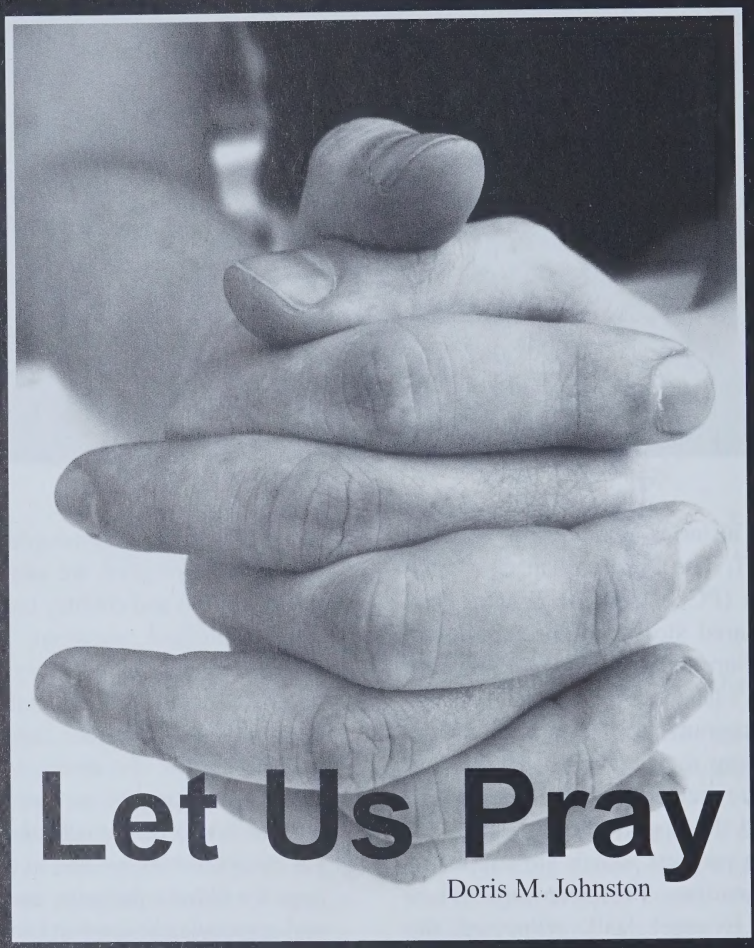
and the historical relationships between the PCT, The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC), and the WMS. They also shared stories of the Aboriginal population and ministry in Taiwan, women's leadership, spiritual development programs, and foreign spouses.

During their travels, Ni-Ling and Ibu were treated to WMS hospitality and had the opportunity to visit local mission projects which are supported by Canadian Presbyterians. They toured Evangel Hall, witnessed the Saskatoon Native Circle at work, and spent time with the Winnipeg Inner City Missions at Anishinabe Fellowship Centre and Flora House.

Both Ni-Ling and Ibu were interested to hear about the experiences of women in the PCC, their passion for mission, their triumphs, and their challenges. Ni-Ling reflects:

> "This has been a wonderful trip for Ibu and me. Though the schedule was tight, I really learned a lot from the people we met and the projects we visited. Every church and country has its own challenges, missions, and visions in its own context. I admire the spirit of the members of the WMS. They are faithful and caring to the ministry of God's Kingdom. We are just two women from a very small country, yet everyone was so kind to us. I hope I will have the same energy and responsiveness when I reach my seventies. *Peng-An* (Peace)."

This visit has resulted in a further Canadian-Taiwanese exchange. In April 2007, eight WMS members will travel to Taiwan. There, they will gain first-hand knowledge of the work that the PCT and the Women's Ministry Committee are doing in the name of Jesus Christ. It is hoped that women from Taiwan will complete the exchange by coming again to Canada and sharing in our mission.



Let Us Pray

Doris M. Johnston

Jesus never told his disciples *when* to pray, only *how*. I'm glad of that because if I had to discipline myself when to pray I would have missed out on a lot of good conversations with God.

When I was a child, I thought my quick little "help me" prayers didn't count. I really thought I had to have a day's worth of prayers before I retired for the night. By that time I was too tired to remember all the things I had to talk to God about.

I tried praying in the morning. My mind was fresh for whatever God had to offer. I asked what God wanted me to do that day. There were so many

things I had to do, and while I was praying I was thinking of these things. I'm afraid I didn't always pay close enough attention to what God was saying. Morning prayers were not the answer. I always seemed to be asking for things; sometimes I felt that I was giving God orders. I know that I'm not. Didn't he say, "Ask, and it shall be given you." What I forgot was: Was it His will?

Morning break (even mothers of five healthy children need to stop once in a while), now that is a good time to pray for Third World countries and their leaders, pray for our country too. Pray that God gives us leaders who will make the right decisions, and citizens who will obey the law.

When tea time rolls around, my elderly neighbour comes in and we talk about prayer. "Prayer does not need proof, prayer needs practice," she tells me. She closes our chat with a little prayer and hurries off to see another friend; she has so many friends and she cares about them all. I take another five minutes while rinsing the cups to send up a hasty prayer for all the sick and shut-in, for people surviving floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes, and also those who have lost loved ones in these catastrophes.

I remember hearing someone say that we will never have time for prayer; *we must make time*. I told myself I would make a list of all the things I did that were unnecessary. Then I thought that this list would be the first to go. I knew the things that could be eliminated. I could make shorter phone calls to my friends, watch less television, write a grocery list, and remember to take it with me instead of having to go back for those items I had forgotten.

My first answered prayer was for my dog, Barney. I was going on an errand for my mother and I hadn't told Barney to stay home. Suddenly, I heard a train whistle and looked up. I had crossed the tracks without thinking and my dog had followed me. He was standing on the tracks watching something in the field. I yelled, but Barney was so intent on his business that he didn't hear me. Mom always said, "Prayer helps," so I sent up a quick one. I turned my back. I couldn't bear to look as the train thundered past. When I looked down at my side there was Barney standing there.

Alfred Lord Tennyson said, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Who would think to pray before shopping for shoes? My mother did! Her feet were really thin and nothing seemed to fit without giving her blisters. She told us her prayer was answered because she had found the most comfortable shoes she had ever owned. Nothing is ever too small to pray for. Ask yourself the question that Corrie ten Boom penned: "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" And if you have some time on your hands, spend part of it in prayer.

On September 15, 2006, Sarah Kim, Women's Missionary Society (WMS) Executive Director; Wilma Welsh, Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) and WMS Treasurer; Ron Wallace, Associate Secretary, International Ministries; and Amy MacLaughin, *Record* staff writer, left for India. They combined the Moderator's trip with WMS events. The Jobat Christian School was rebuilt with funds from the WMS through a generous bequest from Mabel Booth, a former deaconess. The group went to India to inaugurate the newly-built school. While there, they also attended the celebration of the release of the Bhil prisoners and visited with our partner church, The Church of North India (CNI). The trip included a visit to Chennai, the coastal fishing village hit by the 2004 tsunami.

Amy MacLaughlin, Wilma Welsh, Pauline Brown, Ron Wallace, Sarah Kim, and Agnes Hyslop inside Munroe Church.

Women of the candle-making program, which is run by the Institute for Development Education (IFDE), greet the Canadian guests.

A woman displaying her goods for sale. Her goods were made with funds borrowed from the micro-credit program, which is supported by the PCC.

Exterior of the new Jobat Christian School.

Bishop Maida and the Canadian guests stand in front of the plaque outlining the Jobat Christian School dedication in memory of Mabel Booth.

omen of the fishing village greet the nadian guests.

Canadian guests and the fishermen who received fishing boats from The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

me of the released Bhil prisoners at a celebration in ir honour, Amkhut.

A baby wearing a WMS-knit pneumonia vest at the Indore Hospital.

Multi-Generational Activities Throughout the Year

Alexis McKeown

Sunday, May 13 is Christian Family Sunday. While it is good to set aside a special day to celebrate the intergenerational make-up of our congregations, this Sunday is not the only time of year when generations can celebrate and work together. The WMS has had a long history in encouraging, educating, and providing spiritual guidance for children and youth. Christian family connections are nurtured by opening lines of communication with children, tweens, and teens. Here are some suggestions to help your WMS group to continue playing an active role in fostering Christian family connections in your congregation.

Be active this summer...

The summer months are busy with holidays, cottages, and other summer fun. It is sometimes difficult to find volunteers to work with children and youth during these months because of busy schedules.

- Volunteer to lead Sunday school for a couple of Sundays. It is a great time to introduce the latest *Partners* mission study. Each member of your WMS group can take on a different Sunday.
- Volunteer to help plan or host a week-long Vacation Bible School. There are resources available that help take your summer camp from the greeting on the first day to the final farewell.
- Is your church close to a Presbyterian camp? What about offering to lead a morning worship service or an evening campfire?

Plan for the fall...

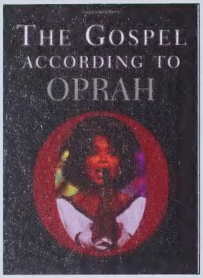
The spring is a perfect time to think about and plan for new initiatives in the fall. There are some great one-time or continuous multi-generational events that help bring people together.

- Offer a monthly babysitting day. Your group will be able to interact with preschool children while giving mothers time to run errands or take part in group study.
- Approach the Sunday School Superintendent and obtain the names of the children in your congregation. Set up secret pen pals by matching up one member of your group with a young person in the congregation. You can unveil your secret at a special banquet.
- Start a prayer partnership with a young person in your congregation. Exchange one thing you are thankful for and another thing you would ask God to help achieve each week. For example: "I am thankful for the B+ I got on my English test; I ask God to grant me the patience to work with my younger sister."
- Host a multi-generational tea with grandmothers, mothers, and daughters. Arrange for a panel of speakers from each generation. Ask some interesting questions of faith, future, prayer, etc., or simply enjoy one another's company, fellowship, and conversation.

Other ideas to implement:

- Hold an after-school homework club to help children with their homework
- Start a knitting club to help teach and guide youth in learning to knit
- Offer to talk to, or host, a youth group meeting
- Prepare a social lunch for your group and the children/youth of your congregation
- Provide snacks for your Sunday School classes
- Work on a mission bulletin board with the children of your congregation
- Invite the youth of your congregation to join you in volunteering at a local food bank, for a clothing drive, or while visiting at a nursing home
- Think about activities that are specific and special for your WMS group. How could young people be included and be active in those activities?

Reviews



***The Gospel According to Oprah*, Marcia Z. Nelson, Westminster John Knox Press, $19.50**

Oprah Winfrey is arguably the most well-known woman in the world today. She has a worldwide reach that extends into television, magazines, movies, book publishing, and beyond. Fans enjoy Oprah's show with a religious zeal and find that she is someone who is entertaining, human, accessible, encouraging, empowering, honest, real, and empathetic

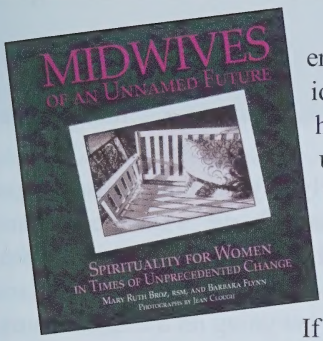
Marcia Nelson admits that before writing this book, she didn't really "get" Oprah's appeal. In order to research her writing, Ms. Nelson, a religious writer, watched Oprah's show, read her magazine, spoke to admirers—and some detractors—for an entire year. The end result is a book full of admiration for Oprah's "gospel."

Oprah doesn't focus on any one religion nor is her "gospel" itself a religion. Ms. Nelson identifies Oprah's gospel as: "Live your best life by being grateful, generous, and honest with yourself and others…" (p. 86). Ms. Nelson explores the spiritual dimensions that are prevalent in all aspects of the Oprah Winfrey media empire. While Oprah's work focuses on values, it is Ms. Nelson who equates those values to Christian virtues and quality of character. She points out that there are several major Christian virtues and themes that weave through these aspects of Oprah's life and work: forgiveness, generosity, self-examination, gratitude, simplicity, and community.

"Oprah talks about spirituality without referring to the institutions that are set up to cultivate and nurture spirituality and without replacing those institutions…if she were more specific, she would be narrowcasting to smaller groups rather than broadcasting to millions." (p. 85) Oprah Winfrey's media empire is "…not entertainment *or* values. It's entertainment *with* values. That's not religion. But it's compatible with religion." (p. 94)

***Midwives of an Unnamed Future*, Mary Ruth Broz and Barbara Flynn, Acta Publications, $19.95**

In this beautifully laid-out book, authors Mary Ruth Broz and Barbara Flynn use the image of the midwife to develop a series of spiritual reflections and rituals that can be used by individuals, and by small, or large groups. Each section includes readings and suggestions for quiet reflection and


MIDWIVES
OF AN UNNAMED FUTURE
SPIRITUALITY FOR WOMEN
IN TIMES OF UNPRECEDENTED CHANGE
MARY RUTH BRIZ, RSM, AND BARBARA FLYNN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEAN CLOUGH

ends with ideas on how to use the theme within a group setting. If used in a group, it would be important for each member to have a copy of the book so that the personal reflection could be done ahead of time. Themes include wellness, aging, seasons, change, and pilgrimage. Although mainly based on Christian traditions, the authors promote openness to the insights and practices of other spiritual traditions such as labyrinths. They look to such traditional feminine activities as baking bread, spinning cloth, and quilting to deepen spiritual enlightenment.

WMS PCC THE Book Room

The Book Room
50 Wynford Drive,
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 1-800-619-7301
bookroom@presbyterian.ca

WMS T-shirts

WMS T-shirts in white, navy, and red will be a great addition to your casual summer wardrobe! They are available in Medium, Large, and XL for $15.00, and $18.00 XXL.

Please note: the T-shirts are a small fit and it is suggested that you order a size larger than you normally wear.

To order, or for more details, please contact:
Katherine Allen
Women's Missionary Society
(416) 441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301

Mission in Action

The Rev. Marion Barclay MacKay
The Rev. Dr. Donald W. MacKay
Nsaba Lay Training Centre, Ghana

February 2007

As we observed our first Christmas here in Ghana, we are indeed grateful and touched by the wonderful, overflowing mailbox through late November and December as well as throughout January with Donald's birthday at the end of that month. We say a grateful thank you to all individuals and groups, who took the time to send cards and notes to us to help make our Christmas season a memorable one and the birthday a special one.

The opening days of 2007 were busy ones for us here in Nsaba. We began the year with a two-week catechist training course. Students arrived the evening of New Year's Day, ready to head for classes at 9:00 a.m. the next morning. We had intentionally planned this course for those who had previously completed the first level, or Foundational Courses, of their training. Ten days before the course started, we had no idea how many students would be coming. The Director was optimistic: 12 students had purchased the course module books. Two days before the start of the course, we knew we would have at least two students, as they arrived at the Centre a few days early! By the time classes began on January 2, we were pleased and gratified to see that a group of 24 students had gathered and were keen and eager to get going on the seven courses that were a part of this segment of their training. We had met all but one previously, but the newcomer quickly became a part of the total group.

We enjoyed working with and teaching this group of students. As the days unfolded, a good spirit was present among them. Morning worship was conducted by the students themselves, with an opportunity for feedback afterwards to help them grow in their self-understanding of their role as worship leader. One morning, the student conducting worship had selected his text from John 15, focusing upon the image of Jesus as the Vine and our call to bear fruit. As he interpreted this text, he drew heavily upon his own background as a cocoa farmer to help us understand the importance of the essential relationship we must have with Jesus Christ in our lives and the necessity to produce quality "cocoa pods" in our life of Christian faithfulness! Grapevines mean nothing in the culture here, but cocoa farming does, so his mediation was a wonderful example of how the gospel message

can transcend boundaries of culture and experience as well as reflect how the "old, old story of our faith" can be blessed with a fresh and new perspective in our lives!

On Saturday, January 6, the Day of Epiphany, we opened our home to the students and invited them to share a special supper with us. It was a happy time of "feasting and fellowship" together. It was also "integrated" into their studies as Donald had been teaching a course on "Church Liturgy" where they had been learning about the celebrations and seasons of the Church Year. The students watched as the wise men from our crèche set (who had been "travelling" around our living room all through the Christmas season), finally "arrived" at the manger to worship Jesus and present their gifts to Him. Our celebration of Epiphany ended with a decidedly Ghanaian touch. Someone spotted the African drum that had come at Christmas time so it was a golden opportunity for some singing and dancing together before the students headed back to the Centre.

As the two-week course concluded, we had to trade in our "teaching hats" for "writing hats." We received an invitation to assist with the on-going development of the various manuals for the Lay Ministries Training program that forms the basis of training for catechists and other lay leaders of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. We have been using the manuals that have been produced to date, but a number of others are still in various stages of production. The day after the course ended, we found ourselves in the truck making the trip to Ramseyer Training Centre (RTC), a three-hour drive away to attend a two-week writer's workshop. A year ago, having just arrived in Ghana, we had been at RTC to do our initial Twi language training and here we were, going back there again. Marion went to the writer's workshop expecting to write in the area of Christian Education but when she got there discovered she was needed to write the draft manual for "Communication Skills." She thinks there was some "divine humour" involved in this latest assignment since her own skills of communication have been quite "stretched and taxed" since arriving in Ghana! Donald is writing in pastoral care and counselling skills which will put to good use his experience of teaching in this area some years ago while in Nigeria. The two-week writers' workshop is now over, but we continue to work away at our respective assignments.

We are indeed grateful for God's continued presence in our lives as we face the challenges of day-to-day life and of ministry in this place. Thank you for your on-going interest in the mission endeavour here, your prayers and support. May God bless all your days of 2007 with wisdom, strength, and peace.

Alan, Rosalie, Kirsten, and Robynne Howard
Mussorie, India

January 15, 2007

Dear Family and Friends,

Sun-warmed shoulders, salty wet hair, sandy toes, the constant swoosh of breaking waves—yes, we're back on the shores of the Arabian Sea in Benaulim, Goa. And, needless to say, we really feel "on holiday!" After almost 40 hours of travel, we arrived in Margao/Margaon/Madgaon (the spelling varies depending on the sign or map you are looking at), caught a taxi to Benaulim village, quickly unpacked, got into our bathing suits, and headed for the water. A broad ribbon of sand lined with coconut palms and snack shacks stretches in both directions as far as the eye can see. The water is warm and blue, dotted with local fishing boats, pleasure crafts, and relaxed tourists. Our days are spent swimming, reading, going for walks, eating (!), and socializing with our fellow Woodstockers. Most recently we've been chin-wagging with Alan's parents who are visiting from Canada. While we snack on such treats as Doritoes, red licorice, and Grandma's shortbread, they're catching us up on all the family and church news. It is very special to be able to vacation together and we look forward to sharing our Woodstock life with Mum as well, as she will stay with us through the first few weeks of February.

Alan and Rosalie with Mum

Alan and I have also been discussing "what's next." For a multitude of reasons, family and finances among them, we will return to our home and jobs in Ontario this summer, even though both we and Woodstock would in many ways like us to remain here. We have mulled and prayed over the matter for some time and feel this is the right decision for the moment. However, we are convinced that, just as the life of the Biblical Joseph demonstrates, each experience is preparation for the future. So we look forward in anticipation to... A Master's degree? Return to Woodstock? Working at another International school??? One thing we *can't* imagine is carrying on our pre-India life until retirement, although we may be called to do just that as easily as anything else. We

therefore wait and wonder where, how, and which doors God will open. Meanwhile we realize more and more that while contemplating future directions and possibilities is exciting, our purpose is the present day-to-day living out of love and faith as transparently and humbly as we are able.

Lolling here on beach chairs we have vague recollections of the hectic 24/7 busyness of boarding school life and but that is all still two weeks away. So we think of you instead, thanking you all for your interest and encouragement and wishing you a Very Happy 2007, filled with peace, joy, and love.

Brian Johnston
Protestant Theological Seminary
Cluj, Romania

February 10–12, 2007

Dear Friends,

All went well last weekend when I travelled to Bucharest with a part of my choir. We left early Saturday and travelled by van from Cluj. On Sunday morning, we participated in the morning service at the Reformed Church in Bucharest and sang at an evening concert at the German Lutheran Church.

Singing with congregation in the Reformed Church in Bucharest

On Monday evening, an exhibition of my photographs opened at the Hungarian Culture House. The choir sang at the exhibition opening and the hour-long concert featured my choir with bass soloist Zoltan Nagy.

In her opening remarks, Canadian Ambassador Ms. Marta Moszczenska praised the event as an artistic expression of multiculturalism which brought Hungarians, Romanians, and Canadians together. The choir members appreciated the Canadian Embassy's support and enthusiasm.

I would like to personally thank Mr. Istvan Toth from the Hungarian Cultural Centre for his kind invitation and organization of the event. I would

Overseas Staff Birthdays

August

9 - Paul McLean, Taiwan

September

7 - David Villalonga, Nicaragua
16 - Arlene Onuoha, Nigeria
16 - Denise van Wissen, Nicaragua
27 - Clara Henderson, Malawi
27 - Ian Shaw, Guyana

also like to thank the Rev. Bela Zsold from the Hungarian Reformed Church for his organizational assistance.

Ian Shaw
Skeldon Presbyterian Manse
Corriverton, Guyana

Have Props—Will Travel: A Christmas Pageant in Guyana

Well she's no Paladin (she's far more attractive and much less frightening in appearance) but if Linda had a business card these days, she might just imitate the one Richard Boone used in the long-ago days of mostly black-and-white TV (Black and white both in the level of moral clarity as well as the dominant broadcast colour.). Linda has gathered (some things never change!) a wardrobe and set pieces for a Christmas nativity drama. She has also adapted a script. And for the last several weeks, she has been travelling around the Presbytery assisting and mostly directing several productions of the "play."

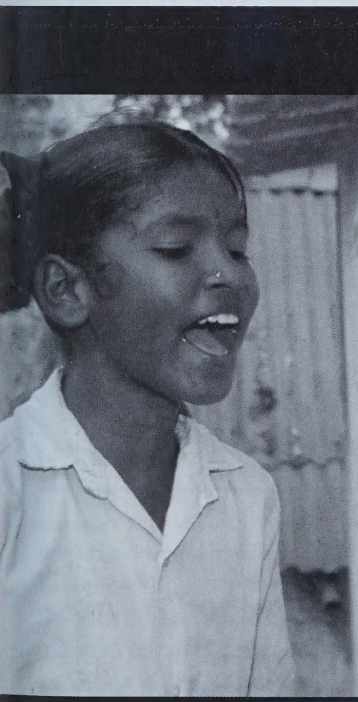
For a variety of reasons, most congregations in our eastern half of the Presbytery have not recently experienced an enacted telling of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Early in the fall, Linda decided to stage a Christmas pageant here at Skeldon and Massiah with the Sunday Schools and Youth Groups. The searching began. First she looked for a script that was simple and offered a good number of small speaking parts. Then came the greater challenge—costumes and sets.

The challenges turned out to be hills, not mountains. With world-class scrounging skills, an inventive mind (have you ever seen a tea cozy worn as a head covering by one of the Magi?), and the enlistment drive of a military recruiter from *Fahrenheit 911*, Linda soon had a complete wardrobe set for the entire cast, a moveable manger scene, the assorted other paraphernalia needed to flesh out the drama, and a roadie who was somewhat long in the tooth but sworn off all drugs stronger than aspirin.

Of course with all the basics now accumulated, it seemed a good opportunity to try using them as much as possible. The drama was deemed a wonderful opportunity to widen the new Kid's Club ministry with the children in Village 48. Have you ever heard the expression "ever try to herd cats?" That's not an unfair description of trying to rehearse over two dozen basically 'unchurched' kids who are only slightly familiar with the details and have little grasp of the "flow." It wasn't as challenging as working with the Herdmans (from "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever") but if the results are anywhere near the same, we'll be delighted. Invitations to parents and friends to attend the performance were sent home with all the children. Hopefully we'll get to meet many more of the older part of the community.

Then, Linda helped two fledgling youth groups further down the road. This time, she had to work without the support of her roadie (and now assistant director). It was a slice, but she managed to stagger home from the first (and last) rehearsal in time to spend the night carolling 15 villages from a lorry with the Skeldon congregation.

The week's schedule is modest by comparison. It all begins at Massiah on December 17 with a candlelight service. The lights come back on for the play. {That has now happened and went very well}. On the December 20, the play is being performed at Village 48. Christmas even will be the most interesting. After the 7:30 a.m. performance at Skeldon, we load everything up for the 40-minute drive to the first (10:00 a.m.) production in our neighbouring parish. This we do again without the roadie tagging along to assist (how come this roadie doesn't seem to travel!) The reward other than something akin to the Herdman saga will be a roast goat dinner at the end of the day. Or maybe Linda will just keep travelling the other way. Paladin did.



Hope for a new generation.
You can help.

PWS&D partners in India are helping children go to, and stay in, school. Learn more at ***www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd***

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr. Toronto ON M3C 1J7
pwsd@presbyterian.ca www.presbyterian.ca
tel: 416-411-1111 or 1-800-619-7301

The Twelve

Jim Phillips

The Twelve Sons of Jacob

Asher
Benjamin
Dan
Issachar
Joseph
Judah
Levi
Naphtali
Reuben
Simeon
Zebulun

The Twelve Apostles of Jesus

Andrew
Bartholomew
James
James (Alphaeus)
John
Judas
Matthew
Peter
Philip
Simon (Cananaean)
Thaddaeus
Thomas

Find the names in the puzzle below—
up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally.

S	I	M	E	O	N	W	I	E	H	D	F	C	X
U	I	L	A	T	H	P	A	N	M	D	N	W	A
E	S	M	T	S	A	M	O	H	T	A	Z	R	G
A	S	A	O	S	U	X	A	N	D	R	E	W	L
H	A	T	T	N	Z	E	B	U	L	U	N	E	L
P	C	T	E	V	C	J	A	M	E	S	V	M	R
L	H	H	U	J	Y	A	I	D	Y	I	K	O	B
A	A	E	V	P	D	C	N	A	D	H	F	L	E
S	R	W	N	I	F	N	E	A	Z	A	P	O	N
E	S	R	R	L	O	J	B	H	N	D	H	H	J
M	B	E	E	I	B	J	U	A	B	A	N	T	A
A	B	H	T	H	P	L	E	D	A	N	E	R	M
J	O	S	E	P	H	C	R	U	M	G	O	A	I
A	R	A	P	S	A	D	U	J	O	H	N	B	N

Readers Write

January 8, 2007

I would like to thank you for the Advent Service included in the December issue. Our group was able to use this during the morning service of the 1st Sunday of Advent. We focused on AIDS awareness. The congregational offering that morning resulted in $677.00 being sent to PWS&D for their continuing programs.

Barbara M. Fairservice,
St. Giles' Presbyterian Women, Prince George, BC

Correction notices:

March 6, 2007

I was happy to receive my copy of *Glad Tidings* last week and to see that the article I had contributed was included, although I have some comments I would like to make.

The garden amidst the ruins of the Nunnery is quite small and I only mentioned it as a place to sit and meditate. We did not walk through it.

In the last line of the first column, the word "Columba" is spelled incorrectly. Also, in the second paragraph of the second column, the word is "loch" Earn, not lock as was printed.

These are all things that anyone who has visited Iona would know and I'm sure there are many readers who have visited the island and Abbey over the years.

Cecilia A. Morris

March 8, 2007

Congratulations on another excellent issue!

Is there a chance of my getting a correction of my own in the next issue? Correction: In the Barrie Presbyterial Report (March/April *Glad Tidings*), the psalm referred to was written by Lois Cullis (not Wilson) of Orillia (not Oro).

June Campbell

Retreats
continued from page 9

diverse as those who seek this change in pace. The place may be a private cabin, a camp, a retreat centre—urban, or rural. What is crucial is the separation from the humdrum of daily life.

The most important thing is the way you return from your time away—your time on retreat. Whether you return from being on retreat rested and focused, or step back into your daily living routine with your mind open to new possibilities—*emerging with a new and quiet spirit is the goal.* Whatever purpose prompted you to step aside to a special time and place for retreat…it will change your life.

In Memoriam

Marjorie McMullin passed away on October 31, 2006 in her 90th year. Marjorie worked for The Presbyterian Church in Canada for 25 years. She worked as a bookkeeper (1959–1962) and a stenographic secretary (1963–64) for the Women's Missionary Society (WMS). After working in the Treasurers office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, she returned to work with the WMS as Assistant to the Treasurer/Bookkeeper (1978–1983).

Marjorie grew up in Blytheswood, near Leamington, Ontario. As her mother was an active member, Marjorie was "born into" the WMS. She was working with the Hudson's Bay Company in Edmonton, Alberta, when she saw the position for the WMS advertised in *Glad Tidings*. Marjorie wanted to serve the church and was very devoted to the WMS. Her hobbies included photography, gardening, sewing, and travelling.

Wherever she lived, Marjorie was always a member of the local WMS group. Marjorie was also active with East & West Toronto Presbyterials. She was a member of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Victoria-Royce, and eventually Bonar-Parkdale Church when she lived in the Bonar-Parkdale Seniors Residence. She was a member of the Margaret Wilkie Group WMS until her health failed and she went to live in a senior's residence in Kingsville to be close to her niece and nephew. We thank God for Marjorie's life and witness.

Dorothy Clark, Bonar-Parkdale WMS, and Katherine Allen

Ms Ivy Howard passed away on January 25, 2007. A Memorial Service was held on February 6 at West Point Grey Presbyterian Church.

Ivy Howard came to Canada after completing her training at St. Colm's Missionary College in Edinburgh. She was a member of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Her first job in Canada was a ten-year position as Deaconess at Glenview Presbyterian Church in Toronto.

She was appointed by the WMS to teach at TamKang Middle School in

Ivy Howard with Wilma Welsh

1972. As a missionary colleague, my memories of Ivy are nice smells of good food in her home. She was a great hostess to the many Canadian Presbyterian missionaries in her home. To go into Ivy's home was always a treat. She always made it very welcoming, with candles lit all over the apartment.

Ivy's first love was working with children and her first interest was in Christian Education. Ivy was a gifted musician and was always eager to play the piano for worship services and singalongs.

Ivy retired in August 1993. In her appreciation in The Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly of 1994, she is thanked for her faithful and enthusiastic ministry.

Mr. Albert Yao, Principal of TamKang High School in Taiwan, sends the following Benediction: "Ms Ivy Howard has fought the good fight, has finished the race, and has kept the faith. From now on, there is reserved for her the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give her on that day."

Wilma Welsh

Honorary Membership Certificates 2006

Anita Cowan
Barbara Weavers
Dundas, ON

Marion Whitfield
Listowel, ON

Helen Walker
Shakespeare, ON

Rev. Hugh Nugent
Brantford, ON

Marie Schandlen
Orillia (Willis), ON

Jean McNiven
Barbara Robson
Autumn Tudhope
Oro (Willis), ON

Noreen Hurren
Campbellville, ON

Janet Brewer
Jean Leiper
Toronto, ON

Pat Hogerward
Ruby Schyff
Atwood, ON

Wilma Welsh
Guelph, ON

Lois Beaton
Crysler, ON

Don Schreuder
Perth, ON

Druse Bryan
Roxboro, QC

Alberta Abbott
Grace Thornley-Brown
Montreal, QC

Certificate of Recognition 2006

Cathy Smith
Varsity Acres, Calgary, AB

Julie Hooker
Dundalk, ON

Claude Kassoaf
Deborah Somanader
Thornhill, ON

Janet Brewer
Toronto, ON

In the Society

Presbyterial

The **Brockville** Presbyterial Annual Meeting was held at Knox, Iroquios, ON in January 2007. The theme of the meeting was "Encountering God Through Faith." The Morewood group conducted the morning worship service followed by a Bible Study led by Margaret Reynolds. After creating a "scriptural mosaic" with bible verses that referred to faith, we formed groups to create an expression of "Faith in God" in one of four ways—through song, drama, interview, or art. Everyone enjoyed the preparation and presentation of these unique presentations.

The Rev. Dr. Floyd McPhee was the afternoon guest speaker. He shared information and stories about Canadians Helping AIDS Victims with Education (CANHAVE), an organization dating back to 1994. The organization's Mission Statement states: "As volunteers, we provide support to Ugandan children orphaned by the AIDS virus—mostly by providing education (school fees and uniforms), medicine, food, and clothing, as well as through special projects." Mr. McPhee is President of CANHAVE's Canadian Board of Directors. An Auxiliary Board in Uganda oversees local decisions.

Uganda is projected to have 3.5 million children who are orphaned by AIDS by 2010. These orphans will have little chance of attending school because education is not free. Presently, the organization sponsors 40 students for $360/child/year through charitable donations. Their goal is to sponsor 100 orphans. They are also building a Vocational Training School to help students find jobs after they graduate from school. Our group wished Mr. McPhee continued success with this worthwhile organization.

The Rev. Geoffrey Howard installed the new executive; and incoming President Margaret Reynolds presented outgoing President Catherine Blatch with a pot of beautiful spring flowers and thanked her for her years of service.

Judy Messenger

The **Paris** Presbyterial Fall Rally was held at Crieff Hills Community on October 4, 2006. Although a rain storm (and lack of hydro for a period of time) prevented walks outside, the ladies enjoyed warm fellowship and learning in the Conference Hall. Gloria Wasacase and Susie Stickler introduced the theme of "Sabbath Moments" through bible study and craft. Margaret McGillivray spoke about "Christianity in China Today" and showed pictures that she took while on her tour of China.

Elaine Stevens

The 92nd Annual Meeting of **East Toronto** Presbyterial was held on February 24, 2007 at St. David's in

Scarborough, ON. As the 31 members and guests gathered in the sanctuary for the meeting, they enjoyed a hymn sing conducted by Katherine Allen with Anna Cook at the piano.

The Rev. Ann Blane led the Worship Service. Her meditation was based on Matthew 25:31–46. Ms Blane challenged us to care for one another, the poor, the outcasts, the needy, and the marginalized, both here in Canada and overseas.

The Annual Reports were reviewed for approval. Education Consultant, Lynda Reid, played a game of Jeopardy with the group where the questions to her answers could be found in the printed reports.

Guest speaker Joan Smith spoke about and, showed pictures of, her recent trip to Guatemala. She encouraged us to read the report of the trip in *Glad Tidings*. She also encouraged us to take a Mission Exposure Tour to learn what our church is doing in the Mission Fields.

Prayer Time was led by Marjorie Ross. Priscilla Anderson led the "In Memoriam" and gave us time to pray for the needs of others, and to give thanks for the lives and service of those who passed away during the last year.

The group then adjourned to enjoy a time of fellowship and the delicious lunch provided by St. David's Fellowship Team.

Eleanor Keith.

On February 5, 2007, Hazel Smith, the **Vancouver Island** WMS Presbyterial President, welcomed everyone to St. Columba, Parksville, BC. The theme was 1 John 3:16–20 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence wherever our hearts condemn us. For God is

The Rev. David Smith, Wilma Welsh, Hazel Smith, Kay Mori, and Kathy Ball at the Vancouver Island WMS Presbyterial Annual Meeting on February 5, 2007.

greater than our hearts, and he knows everything." (NIV)

Guest speaker Wilma Welsh spoke on "Journeying Together in Missions." She stated that mission should not be a "once-a-year item" to be focused only on Mission Awareness Sunday. The church must be involved in missions all year round. Some mission work in which Canadian Presbyterians have been involved in the last year include: the Chestnut Street Property and Anisinabe in Winnipeg; assisting students from BC to go and work in Malawi; Family Recovery; Camps; International Ministries; the Bhil Field in India; Cariboo Ministries; Community Health Workers on the Mission Field; supplying medical machinery; knitting pneumonia vests; building wells; small business assistance; and many, many more.

The offering, donated to the Mission Fund, provides money for young adults in our Synod to be exposed to, and to engage in, mission work. In 2006, a team went to Malawi and assisted in a neo-natal clinic. There is already a waiting list for the 2008 program.

Marlene MacMillan

On the bright, winter morning of February 10, the ladies of **West Toronto** Presbyterial gathered at University, Presbyterian Church (UPC), Toronto, ON for the 93rd Annual Meeting. Presbyterial President, Janet Brewer, welcomed everyone. Devotions were led by Weston Presbyterian Church. Janet Brewer presented an Honorary Membership certificate to Betty Stainton. The Rev. Lynda Reid read the slate of Officers for 2007 and led in an installation service.

Vernice Gumbs and Sherma Mitchell led an informative afternoon workshop entitled: "*Sabbath Rest.*" Ms Reid then introduced us to the Spirituality Centres. We made our choice from among artistic creative expressions (e.g., watercolour or tissue paper creations), contemplative prayer, labyrinth, holy conversation, imaginative visualization, or time with a book. After spending a relaxing half hour at one or more of the centres, we formed a large circle and shared in Communion. The Benediction closed a warm and enlightening meeting: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28, NIV)

Diane Osborne

On November 9, 2006, the **Westminster** Presbyterial hosted an informative day in White Rock, BC. Moderator Wilma Welsh, WMS President Margaret McGillvray, and two visiting ministers from Taiwan were the guest speakers.

The program started with greetings from Presbyterial President, Barbara Petticrew, introductions by Linda Inglis, and a prayer by the Rev. Willem van der Westhuisen.

Wilma Welsh spoke on her recent trip to India with Ron Wallace, Amy MacLachlan, and Sarah Kim. While

Beth McIntosh and Margaret McGillivray with members of the Westminster Presbyterial

there, she officiated in the opening of a new school in Jobat. She also met with the former Bhil prisoners in Amkhut who were rejoicing at their release.

Fresh from their arrival in Vancouver the day before, the Rev. Ling Ni-Lin and the Rev. Ibu Kanbudan spoke of their work in Taiwan. They work primarily among women. Though the first school was established in 1884 by George MacKay, Ling told us that the first woman missionary, Eliza Cooke, from Britain, was there in 1867. She was not formally recognized until 2002. Ling conducts retreats and works with members of 12 tribal languages. Taiwanese women also commemorate World Day of Prayer on the first Friday in March. Although not many women are ministers of a church like Ling, women have been ordained in the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church since 1950. Ibu has been a minister for three years. She is also a teacher and focuses on empowering women to use their skills.

Mary Fontaine, a Vancouver School of Theology graduate, spoke about her Hummingbird Ministry among the First Nations in this presbytery.

Margaret McGillvray talked about and showed pictures of her trip to Guatemala. Three thousand women are involved in the Presbyterian Church. Denise Van Wissen assists the women in health care. They also learn weaving and gift-making so they can sell goods and become more independent. Margaret reported that there are still effects present from Hurricane Stan. She reported on the visit to the Francisco Coll School and how Sister Alba was an impressive woman to meet.

Our guests were thanked by Sheila Jakus and token gifts were given. The day closed with prayer by the minister.

The 93rd Annual Meeting of the **Westminster** Presbyterial was held at Gordon, Burnaby, BC on February 14. Devotions were led by the Rev. Cal MacLeod.

Katy Ball spoke briefly about mission and the knitting that many women are doing.

Mary Fontaine joined us again and spoke of the healing and reconciliation work she is doing among the First Nation groups. Her future plans include encouraging youth at the National American Aboriginal Games in 2008.

Zena MacKay gave a thoughtful "In Memoriam" which included memories of Ivy Howard, former Area Consultant.

Our speaker, Beth McIntosh, talked about her "Privileged Year Among the Chosen." She taught in North Korea and China in 2005 and shared many interesting pictures and stories.

Sheila Jakus

The **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial Annual meeting was held at St. Marys, ON on February 19. The theme was "Our Purpose—How are we doing?"

President Ina McMillan welcomed 36 women and led in the opening prayer and Call to Worship. Host minister, the Rev. Fraser, and Friendship Auxiliary President Janet Gibson, welcomed everyone in attendance. The meeting proceeded with the reading of the minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting, business, and announcements. Literature Secretary Lois Horne gave an interesting report on new books that are available.

Laurine McIntosh of Motherwell-Avonbank PCW introduced the morning speaker, Mrs. Irene Richardson, who spoke on the importance of local and overseas missions. Vice President Bernice Richards thanked Mrs. Richardson and presented her with a gift.

St. Marys Friendship Auxiliary provided a delicious lunch. After lunch, Evelyn Matthison led a hymn sing with Shirley Aitcheson at the piano. Ina McMillan introduced our Area Education Consultant, the Rev. Anne Yee Hibbs. Ms. Hibbs conducted the bible study and installed the new Executive. Mrs. McMillan turned things over to the new President, Bernice Richards. Mrs. Richards thanked Ina for her leadership for the past three years. Mary Duffin of St. Andrews PCW, Stratford, gave the courtesy remarks. The annual meeting closed with prayer and the Benediction.

Bessie Thompson

The **Waterloo-Wellington** Presbyterial Annual Meeting was held on February 17 at St. Andrew's, Guelph, ON. Paul Pennock, Clerk of Session of St. Andrew's, began the day with a welcome and introduction.

The meeting was conducted by President Wilma Welsh and the opening worship was conducted by the ladies of St. Andrew's Guelph.

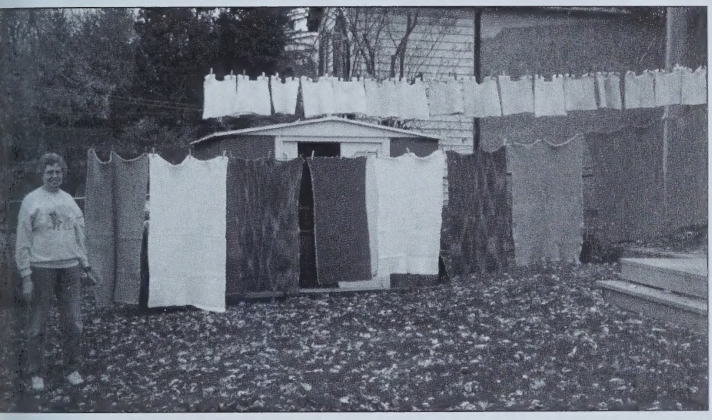
Lunch was provided in honour of Wilma Welsh and she presented and cut a special inscribed cake.

After lunch, the Bells of St. Andrew's played a selection of tunes. Wilma was the afternoon speaker. She

Wilma Welsh, The Rev. Thomas Kay, and Kathleen McGillivray

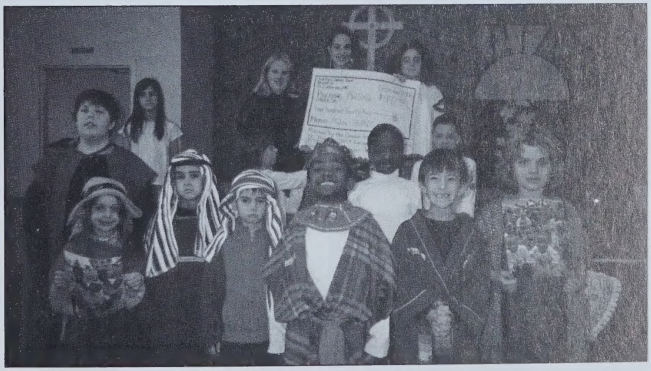
gave a most informative and enjoyable talk about her visit to India as Moderator. Her talk was accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. The Rev. Lynda Reid installed the new Executive for 2007-2008 with Kathleen McGillivray as President.

Mary Johnston



Susan Grimwood with many of the blankets and pneumonia vests that she knitted after coping with her breast cancer and treatment in 2004–2005, and a broken back in 2005. Her daughter, Sarah Morrison, taught her how to knit.
Susan is a member of North Pelham, Kirk-on-the-Hill, and Rockway WMS.

The Sunday School of Scottlea Presbyterian, St. Catharines, ON, presented a cheque for $442 to be sent to assist children who are orphaned because of HIV/AIDS.



Isobel McLean, Edith Williams, Margaret Kennedy, president Margaret Hall, Grace Raney, Helen Oakes, Dr. Ruth Alison, Dr. Russell Hall, and Kay Flynn attended a November luncheon at Glenview Presbyterian Church, Toronto to welcome former member Dr. Ruth Alison.
Photo taken by Grace Raney.

Society uses more water than we think. On January 22, the Rev. Anne Yee Hibbs, South Western Ontario Synod area educational consultant, spoke about water consumption at the Annual Meeting of the Maitland Presbyterial at St. Andrews, Wingham, ON.

Anne Yee Hibbs inducted members of Maitland Presbyterial executive members. From left: Mary Robinson, literature secretary; Betty Johnson, correspondence secretary; Mary Wray, recording secretary; Marilyn McIntyre, past president; Erlma Haldenby, *Glad Tidings* secretary; Marjorie Deyell, president; Evelyn Dickson, treasurer; Joanne Lennips, publicity secretary

Mary Wray of Maitland Presbyterial thanked guest speaker, Jim Stark, for his interesting presentation on his Malawi study tour.

Lois Beaton receiving her Honorary Pin and Certificate on April 23, 2006

Margaret Hall, president of the Glenview WMS, welcomed former member Dr. Ruth Alison.

Forward in Faith

Nursing Education—Pauline Brown Bursary Fund

Two years ago, Banita Tomar and Namrata Bamnia from Amkhut and Punyiwat respectively, were awarded the Pauline Brown Bursary to study nursing at the Isabel McConnell School of Nursing in Jobat, India. They both graduated in 2006.

These two young women will receive a monthly salary of 1,800Rs (about $50.00 CAD). The have both decided that for one year, they will give 800Rs (about $20.00 CAD) each month to help others study. They can comfortably live on 1,000Rs a month as they will live in residence where food is provided. With this donation, they are extending the opportunity that they received on to others.

One of the bursary students at MIBE

We are awaiting further information on the two new students, who have been awarded the Bursary for this coming year. One student is the daughter of one of the men who was recently acquitted and released from prison.

Graduate School of Nursing, Indore

Bursaries have been provided by the WMS for two nursing instructors at the Graduate School of Nursing in Indore, India (MIBE). Both Jagrani Ekka and Ranjana are from tribal families in Jharkhand State and both plan to study for a Master's degree. Ranjana will study Mental Health Nursing and Jagrani will study Child Health Nursing. They expressed their deep appreciation to the WMS for making their studies possible. These young women have taught for two years at the MIBE and are committed to returning to teach after completing their studies.

Sarah and Wilma with Bursary student

$5,000 each year for two years will make this dream come true for these two young women.

Wilma Welsh, Treasurer

House of God

After the dream of the angels climbing the ladder to Heaven…

Jacob was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of Heaven."

(Genesis 28:17, NIV)

The house of God
Sometimes rises
From under our feet
Enclosing us
In holy spaces
While we walk
A dawn-hushed beach
A village foot-path,
Negotiate a snarl of traffic,
Tramp homeward at dusk

Though it may burst in
With a shout, a roar
More often, it drops a pebble
Into the well
While we, like Jacob, awakening
Hush to feel its ripples wash the night.

Judith Frost

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

Here are a few reminders regarding when you receive *Glad Tidings*:

1) Check the label on the magazine to make sure that your name and address are correct.
2) If you are moving, please send your new address immediately.
3) Notification of a new *Glad Tidings* secretary/contact person must be sent by the end of June. The summer mailing, which contains the list of subscribers, will then be sent to the proper source. When corresponding, please include the name of the congregation and group number.

Apologies to subscribers who receive the audio format of *Glad Tidings*. The cassette tapes were delayed due to technical difficulties. If you know of someone who might enjoy receiving *Glad Tidings* in audio format, please let me know.

Making Connections: From Maya People of Guatemala to Aboriginal People of Canada 2007-2009 Church Mission Study

Looking for a resource that is:

Flexible? Mission-oriented? Easy to lead?

Introduce this resource to your WMS group this fall.

THIS SIX-SESSION RESOURCE IS COMING THIS SUMMER.

In this study, we have the opportunity to seek new understanding of how to be a church in our changing, complex world–through the sharing of stories from the Maya people in Guatemala, by connecting with experiences of Aboriginal People in Canada, and in relating to our own journeys of faith and struggle.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Millie Schut
St. Andrew's, Cambridge, ON

Mrs. Kathleen (Kass) Whitefield
Mrs. Inez Harvey
St. Andrew's, Cobourg, ON

Mrs. Kathleen McLarty
Argyle-Crinan, Dutton, ON

Doris K. Smith
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON

Ann Austin
Olive Needham
South Kinloss, Lucknow, ON

Mrs. Marion Smith
Knox, Monkton, ON

Margaret Andrew
St. Andrew's, Mooretown, ON

Lois St. Onge
St. Andrew's, Perth, ON

Lena Anderson
St. Andrew's, Picton, ON

Mrs. Margaret Bartlett
First, Port Colborne, ON

Mrs. Lois St. Onge
St. Andrew's, Perth, ON

Isobel Bell
Tolmie Memorial, Port Elgin, ON

Cathie Wilson
St. Giles', Prince George, BC

Patricia Louise Fremlin
Westminster, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Mary Cauthers
Emmy Jelinski
Jubilee, Stayner, ON

Ina Pickell
St. Marys, St. Marys, ON

The world at your fingertips

It has never been easier to respond to a global need . . . or a need down the street

Presbyterians can

DONATE ONLINE

- **Support the ministry of the Church through *Presbyterians Sharing***
- **Give to PWS&D's community development programs**
- **Respond to the latest disaster**
- **Support *Something Extra* mission projects**

Donate Online. A convenient way to support the mission of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

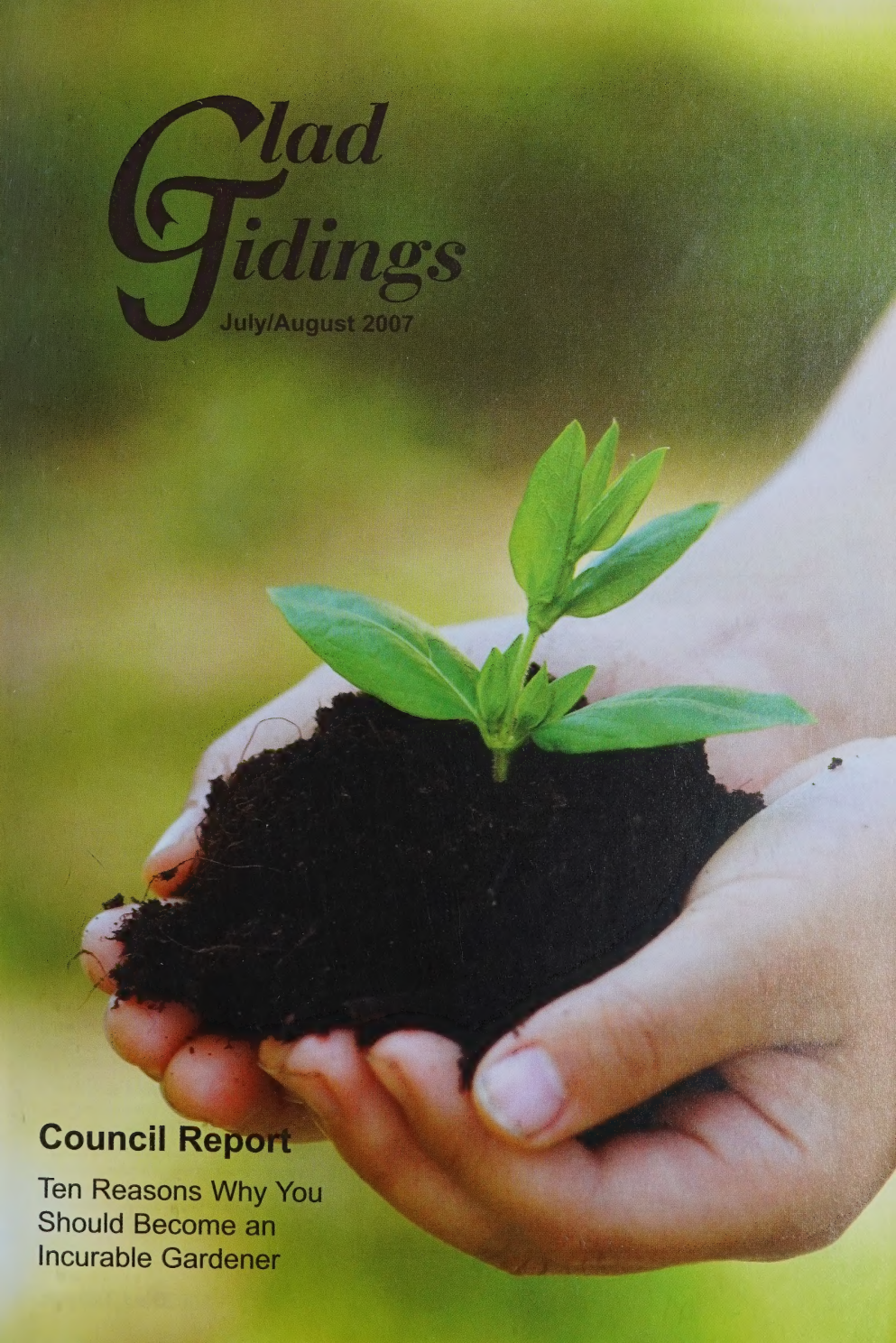
Go to www.presbyterian.ca and click on the Donate button.

PM40013283 R9517

Please report any errors/changes in address

Glad Tidings

July/August 2007



Council Report

Ten Reasons Why You Should Become an Incurable Gardener

Contents

Features

3 **Ten Reasons Why You Should Become an Incurable Gardener** . . . . . *Dorothy Henderson*

8 **The Culinary Art** . . . . . *Cecil E. Burridge*

9 **Who Said What?–a puzzle** . . . . . *Richard Rundell*

10 **A Matter of the Heart** . . . . . *Lini Richarda Grol*

12 **Sunset Reflections–a poem** . . . . . *L. Marie Enns*

13 **When Others Need a Place** . . . . . *Joanna Mallory*

16 **Council Contemplates Sabbath at Annual Meeting** . . . . . *Amy MacLachlan*

43 **Officers and Executive Members** . . . . . .

Regulars

32 **Mission in Action** . . . . . *Ian and Linda Shaw, . . . Marion Barclay-MacKay and Donald W. MacKay*

36 **In the Society** . . . . . .

44 **Forward in Faith** . . . . . *Wilma Welsh*

45 **In Memoriam** . . . . . .

46 **Circulation News** . . . . . *Katherine Allen*

47 **In Remembrance** . . . . . .

Job Posting

It is with regret that the WMS announces Holly Wilson's resignation as Editor of *Glad Tidings.*

The half-time contract position is available as of September 2007.

Interested applicants are asked to contact Cathy Reid by e-mail at andrew.reid@sympatico.ca by August 15, 2007.

Glad Tidings

July/August 2007
Volume 83, No. 4

EDITOR
SONYA HENDERSON
DESIGN
ALEXIS McKEOWN
CIRCULATION MANAGER
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to the circulation department at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7. Phone (416) 441-1111. Fax (416) 441-2825. E-mail Editorial shenderson@presbyterian.ca. Circulation kallen@presbyterian.ca. Publications mail registration number 09517. ISSN: 00170720.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

Canada

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

Subscription rate $12.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $2.00. WMS members should send their subscriptions through their group *Glad Tidings* Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from *Glad Tidings.* Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to *Glad Tidings.*

Glad Tidings reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

Glad Tidings challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

Glad Tidings through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GladTidings provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

ten reasons

Why You Should Become an Incurable Gardener

Dorothy Henderson

I admit it. I'm practically obsessed with gardening. I go to the garden to "putter" for an hour. The next thing I know, the sun is setting and I am trying to garden in the dark.

Those of you who love gardening will nod sagely and say, "I know what that woman's talking about!" For those of you who have yet to discover the sublime pleasure of gardening, read on. I'll try to convince you that you haven't lived unless you've gardened. Here are my top ten reasons for believing that you are never closer to heaven than when you are in the garden.

1 Gardening is the perfect environment for testing faith. A tested faith is a stronger faith. It is like the wind that gently hardens the seedling that you set out in the spring. Who could possibly believe that when you sprinkle the tiny, insignificant brown specks from a package, press them gently into a tilled bed, and give them a sprinkle of water and a splash of sunshine, they will produce the sturdy, metre-tall, exotic cleome? Surely this insignificant speck, buried in the soil, will not grow into a beautiful plant! Seeds do that. They test your faith every spring.

2 Gardening keeps us in touch with the dangers of the seven deadly sins, the greatest of which, for the gardener, is greed. I open the seed catalogue in January and I want one of everything. I go to the garden centre in May and want one of each. I go to the horticulture give-away fair. How can I come home with ten varieties of day lilies? Wouldn't three have been enough? Oh, yes! Gardening helps us remember that moderation is healthy and greed can be as smothering as the pachysandra gone crazy in the side garden.

3 Gardening keeps us constantly in touch with the flow of the seasons, and the seasons are a wise metaphor for life. Autumn brings extravagant colour, but it is also a time of decline and reminds us that elegance and death live companionably, side by side. Nature is not dead in winter, but goes underground to wait and renew itself. The bareness of winter offers us utter clarity—the sun on snow, the bare limbs. We see things clearly in winter. Spring, with its slow and tentative start, returns with a tenacious certainty, restoring in us the green hope of possibility. Summer, with its flamboyance and abundance, draws us out to join our neighbours. In the words of Parker Palmer: "In summer, it is hard to remember that we had ever doubted the natural process." The cycle of seasons reminds us that life goes on and on. *We* may end, but life does not.

4 Gardening reminds us that life is frequently messy in the same way that our theology, our church life, and our family lives are often messy. When I look at my bed of slug-riddled hostas, I try not to remember the orderly Augustinian monk gardener, Gregor Mendal, who grew ten thousand pea specimens in his pristine 19th century greenhouse. Well, bully for you, Brother Gregor, but the reality is that most of us muddle through our garden messes and even learn from—or compost—our mistakes.

5 Gardening teaches us humility. We remember those embarrassing moments when we planted the tall annuals in front of the short annuals.

We remember the cucumber vine that was supposed to travel with decorum, acting like a ground cover through the petunia bed but ended up climbing everything in sight. It is helpful to remember, as we fork out that rich loamy fragrant humus from the compost pile, that "humus" and "humility" comes from the same root word. Humility is rich in growing possibilities.

6 What better way to enter the world of mystery than in the garden? The living things in the garden cannot explain meaning to us, but they point us always to curiosity, light, brightness, and the interrelatedness of the environmental, people, and animal kingdom. (Why *do* those pesky rabbits eat my echinecia?) Just as we find it almost impossible to describe God—although that hasn't stopped countless people from trying—so, too, we cannot describe what enchants us about the garden and the mysteries of life that lie in every square foot.

7 The garden keeps us in touch with the outside world. This may be an incredibly obvious thing. Have you ever had the experience, though, of being alone in a house at night? You hear strange noises outside. You think it *may* be the wind or the lilac tree brushing against the house. But instead of staying paralyzed inside

Gardens are just plain good for the soul.

your house, you decide to walk out into the night. You discover that the night is a friend. There is a warm blanket enveloping your house. The stars are out and, yes, there *is* a tree brushing against the side window. The outside world becomes, once again, a friend.

8 Gardening reminds us that pruning and cutting back is nearly always healthy. It breaks my heart to snip back the tops of chrysanthemums when they are shooting tall in July. But I know that, unless I do that, they will bear only leaf and not flower in September. Pruning and cutting back is often necessary in all of life. Ah…that diet that I must start tomorrow….

9 Garden plants and flowers often have religious significance. Did you know that the humble columbine that prolifically self-seeds in gardens has been associated with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit since ancient times? Did you know that the hardy little calendula that pops up just where you need a splash of gold was used in garlands for the Feast of the Annunciation by Catholic Christians, and became known as the flower of the Blessed Mother? And then there is the Presbyterian Burning Bush. We should all have one in our sun-blessed gardens!

10 Gardens are just plain good for the soul. It is hard to picture a gardener who is not hopeful. We, gardeners, are optimistic and future-oriented while, at the present time, we muck about solidly in our gum boots. Meet a gardener and you will be infected by hopeless enthusiasm and God-inspired hopes for the future. "You should have seen my garden last month....but just wait until next year!" Next year *may* be no better, but hope springs eternal in the gardener. A gardener is a believer.

Author Dorothy Henderson is in the office of Christian Education and Ministry with Children, Youth and Families at the national office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. She is a self-confessed incurable and ever hopeful gardener.

Things you can do with this article

- Compost it.
- Use it to wrap your dahlia bulbs for the winter.
- Read it to a study group. Share gardening stories.
- Read some great gardening stories from the Bible.
  (Genesis 1:11–12; Genesis 2:4–10; Exodus 23:10–11; Deuteronomy 26:1–2, 8–11; Psalm 80:9–12; Psalm 148:7–13; Song of Songs 2:1–2, 11–13; Isaiah 11:1–2; Isaiah 40:6–8; Isaiah 41:18–20; Matthew 9:35–38; Matthew; 13: 3–8; Matthew 13:31–32; Matthew 13:36–40; Matthew 20:1–8; Mark 4:26–29; Luke 12: 16–21; Luke 12: 27–31; Luke 13:6–9; Luke 21:29–31; John 4: 34–38; Romans 11:16–20; 1 Corinthians 3:6–9; Galatians 6:7–9; James 5:7–80)
- Gather up some new gardeners—children and youth. Together, plant a church or community garden.
- Grow a garden and donate the produce to your community food bank.

The Culinary Art

Cecil E. Burridge

One can practice the culinary art for a life time and never learn it all. Even the best cooks keep looking for new ways of doing the same old thing. There is a cook book on the market entitled, "Three Hundred and Sixty-five Ways to Cook Hamburger."

You can buy books devoted only to muffins, chicken, salads, etc. Today there are new cooking methods, new cooking utensils, new kinds of spices, and new cookbooks by the thousands —all meant to help chefs grow in knowledge and ability to create every conceivable kind of dish.

When I was a boy scout in my early teens, some of us tried to earn a badge for cooking. Crouching over a campfire, one lad learned how to serve up a hearty meal of flaming sirloin steak, charred potatoes, and sautéed mosquitoes. Others managed to cook up plates of burnt bacon served with three-pound pancakes. Our best cook was Hughie. He created a marvelous dish—butterscotch pudding with gnat topping. Hughie's specialty, though, was fried eggs.

One day, Hughie was about to lift this most delectable dish off the coals when someone tossed a piece of paper onto the fire. The paper charred quickly, rose into the air in a solid chunk, and slowly settled over Hughie's cherished and appetizing fried egg. What a mess! The egg couldn't be seen. Hughie gently tried to scrape the charred paper away, but his efforts resulted in a broken egg. He ate it anyway!

There are numerous accounts of meals, suppers, special feasts, and hospitality shown to guests of honour in the Bible. Possibly the best known cook in the Scriptures is Martha; and the most famous guest Martha ever entertained was Jesus.

There came a day when Jesus exercised the privilege of friendship and dropped in at this wonderful home. While Martha busied herself preparing a special meal for her guest, her sister Mary sat in the next room at Jesus' feet. Mary was more interested in the spiritual food dispensed by Jesus than in the physical food being prepared in the kitchen. Martha was annoyed that her sister deserted her place at the cooking fire. She complained to Jesus: "Make Mary get back into the kitchen and help me."

Martha believed in ministering to the physical needs of people and she

wanted to please her guest. But she found it difficult to cope without help. The fire was giving off more smoke than heat, the bread was not rising, and the roast was progressing slowly. And Mary, quite unaware of all the problems, sat blissfully at the Saviour's feet. No wonder Martha was exasperated!

But Jesus, who loved them both, gave no help to Martha. From Luke 10:41, we learn that Jesus told the good cook not to worry. He said that Mary had chosen to do "what is better" by listening to His teachings.

Martha had a very definite and practical way of expressing her devotion to the Lord—with her hands. Many a good Christian still serves God in the kitchen. Everyone who does their work unto the Lord is serving Christ. Mary chose to express her love for Jesus by kneeling at His feet in adoration of Him. She put Christ first. That is what all believers must do.

While Jesus deserves our gifts and service, He desires still more. He desires our love, fellowship, faithfulness, and the gift of ourselves…in the kitchen practising the culinary art… and practising our faithful Christianity everywhere.

Who Said What?

Richard Rundell

Matching Quiz: Match the person with what they said.

1	Eve	A	"You are the light of the world."
2	Judas Iscariot	B	"I see four men lose, walking in the midst of the fire."
3	Nebuchadnezzar	C	"I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out."
4	Job	D	"You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
5	Pilate	E	"The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
6	The thief on the cross	F	"But I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."
7	Aaron	G	"Naked I came from my mother's womb."
8	Moses	H	"Lord, remember me when You come into your Kingdom."
9	Jesus	I	"Are you the King of the Jews?"
10	Agrippa	J	"I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

Answers: 1 E; Gen. 3:13
2 J; Matt. 27:4
3 B; Dan. 3:25
4 G; Job. 1:21
5 I; Luke 23:3
6 H; Luke 23:42
7 C; Exod. 32:24
8 F; Exod. 4:10
9 A; Matt. 5:14
10 D; Acts 26:28

A Matter of

Lini Richarda Grol

When I made plans to emigrate from Holland to Canada, I felt confident that I would have no problem speaking English…after all I had been practising by reading English books and magazines! Little did I know what was waiting for me when I went to work as a Registered Nurse in a Canadian Hospital. I soon realized that reading and speaking were not the same thing. Just because I could read English didn't mean I could *speak* English.

I vividly recall my first patients who had to put up with me then—five older women. At first I panicked when I could not understand them (they spoke so quickly) nor did they understand my "new" Canadian English. At times, my mind went blank and I couldn't remember any of the fine sentences I had learned from my books. Helplessly, I looked around at my patients. What could I do or say next?

They took charge and were a great comfort and help to me. Their smiling and encouraging nods made me try again…and again. Their kind understanding made me forget my loneliness, fear, and frustration. They made me laugh and in turn, they laughed with me. They patiently listened and tried to understand my twisted sentences when I cheerfully told them about my life, my home, and my work in Holland. They would sometimes burst into a twitter of laughter when I accidentally threw in a Dutch word that had a funny or even dubious connotation in English. They tactfully corrected my pronunciation, and one of them would whisper a kind warning if I unknowingly threw unladylike words their way.

I was fascinated by stories of their lives on the farm or in the city: exciting stories of house risings, potluck suppers, and quilting bees. We had a good time together—I know at least I did. It felt great when they told me that they had missed me when I returned from my days off.

Thanks to my first five patients, I was soon speaking English fairly well. I was proud of my progress. They

the Heart

complimented me on it and of course, I believed what my new friends said.

One day, after one of my patients had gone home, Mrs. X, the new patient arrived, and she glared at me from her stretcher. "I hate foreigners like flies," she growled. I couldn't follow all she said, but her angry frown and tone of voice told me more than her words. But my old friends helped me get by.

"Oh, you will like it here," they told Mrs. X. "Everyone is so friendly, and our nurse tells us such funny stories about her work in her homeland Holland."

The newcomer glared at me and snarled that she wanted a newspaper. I ran to please her, but when I handed her the newspaper, she scowled: "What's this then? Don't you understand English?"

The force of her voice and her angry expression made clear what she thought of me…and my English. Utterly perplexed and defeated, I looked at my friends. They had said that my English was good. I hung my head and realized my kind-hearted friends had made me believe that they had understood me, and that my English was better than it really was. Now I realized how much I lacked in language ability. Would I ever learn to speak proper English?

At once, my old friends came to my defense: "You will get used to our Nurse's way of talking," they said nodding and giving me ever-encouraging smiles. But Mrs. X pulled her sheet up to her chin, glared at me, and grumbled: "She talks all right, but nobody understands her."

I looked despairingly at my friends. Was my English really that bad?

Then Mrs. Fuller, the sweetest woman of all, said firmly but kindly: "Listen Mrs. X, understanding one another is not simply a matter of words and perfect sentences; it is more a matter of the heart." Turning to me with a warm smile, she added: "We *do* understand our Nurse…and we know that she understands us."

Bless them.

Sunset Reflections

L. Marie Enns

The round and glowing golden sun
Hangs warm and low above the lake
In its last bold and bright display
Before the night shall overtake;
While down below in water calm
Its glory lies in mirrored form,
And mighty spruce look silent on.

But now the sun has slipped behind
The distant rim of tree-lined shore,
The sky's aglow with wondrous hues
Of blues and rosy pinks galore;
While in unruffled water, clear
The blues and pinks again appear,
And mighty spruce stand silent, near.

What beauty! And what quietness!
It soothes the soul of weariness
And lifts the heart in grateful praise
To God who watches all the days
O'er all the creation God has made.
The Master Painter up above
Who also is a God of love
Will always care for each of us
If we will put in God our trust.

When Others Need a Place

Joanna Mallory

Joy and Michael Trent (not their real names) have opened their home to meet the needs of friends or family many times over the years. Housemates have stayed anywhere from three weeks to over two years.

Some people make a ministry of this sort of hospitality, but the Trents have never sought it out. Joy, who values her private space, admits that it's been hard at times. "I thank God for helping me through it…it stretched my dependence on God. It makes you aware of the Scriptural command to go into all the world—sometimes the world comes to your doorstep."

Joy stresses the value of allowing guests to take part in the household upkeep. At times, she sets up a cooking rotation or leaves a short "to do" list. This may defy the tradition of hospitality, but these aren't weekend visitors. As temporary residents, they need a useful place in the home routine. Although it's a stretch to let others help out, it eases Joy's burdens and keeps guests from feeling dependent.

For short term situations, Joy has learned to relax her standards and turn a blind eye to some of the clutter and confusion. She knows that she can catch up when it's over. "In the end, the mother or wife in the household is probably the one who bears the greatest changing of their routines," she warns. Sharing the kitchen, having more people around, taking messages, and even more bathroom mess, all contribute to a greater sense of responsibility.

Joy advises setting guidelines from the outset. These range from house rules such as "no swearing" and details, such as shower schedules, to standards of cleanliness within the home and responsibility for long distance phone bills.

Despite the best of intentions, complications may arise. "Help yourself" has come back to haunt the Trents over things like telephone or computer use.

Joy warns with a smile that: "It will always be the little things that get you." Her approach is to consider how much longer the guests will stay. If the time is short, can she "grin and bear it?"

If not, she says venting her frustration on paper allows her to take a calmer look at how to address the problem. Confiding in a friend could turn into complaining, or somehow get back to her guests' ears to hurt them. Instead, she writes it all out. Then she destroys the evidence. Even the act of tearing up her stresses is therapeutic. She warns of the danger of resenting this investment in the lives of others: "You must let it go, to free yourself."

For long term situations, Joy advises minimizing conflict by setting aside a half hour a week to ask questions and air differences. Both host and guest are on the same team, and therefore they need to work together for this venture to succeed. The Trents have found addressing big issues harder with family members than acquaintances.

Joy has coped best when she knew that the arrangement was short term. But even then, there was a cost. She emphasizes the importance of admitting the need to refresh instead of trying to tough it out. Physical activity like walking has been a helpful outlet. The Trents plan times to get out individually, as a couple, or family unit. In longer term situations, they appreciate it when their guests take a weekend away. This gives everyone a change and a chance to strengthen their own relationships.

The Trents' faith has made a difference in how they cope. Frequent prayers access God's supply of wisdom and patience. They pray for themselves and for their guests. Joy affirms that God has been gracious both in preparing their hearts and in limiting the time.

The wisdom for which they depend on the Lord also comes into play with repeat requests for help. In one case, they finally had to say "no" to a recurring visitor, in the best interests of all concerned.

Joy says opening one's home to meet a need "may seem like an inconvenience at the time, but sometimes it can be a great blessing too." One man who only stayed a few weeks mentioned years later that the respite and acceptance had kept him from giving up on God and from taking his life. Joy asks, "What if we hadn't helped?"

The Trent family has good memories of sharing their home through the years. The stresses have faded over time. The children, now adults, are alert to the needs around them and have reached out to host others.

Joy says, "Some plant, some water, and some reap. We don't know what part we play in a life, what they may go on to." The Trents hope their hospitality has meant something, and that perhaps their guests may do the same for someone else in the future.

A friend of their family had a home open to others for many years. No one knew how many lives he had touched, nor how deeply, until the eulogies at his funeral. When the need arises, the Trents continue to follow his example, never knowing if they will be ministering to angels unawares.

Joanna Mallory's home church is affiliated with the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches.

Tips for Sharing Your Home

Look Before You Leap

- Pray for wisdom.
- Clarify expectations and guidelines up front. Lay ground rules for behaviour and standards of cleanliness.
- Agree on a division of labour and expenses.
- Set a time limit. If the situation must be open ended, plan a review time.

All Together, Now!

- Don't try this alone. Pray for grace daily (hourly if necessary).
- Remember "this too shall pass."
- "Don't sweat the small stuff." But be honest about anything that is really bothering you. Vent frustrations privately before addressing trouble spots.
- If you need space, say so. And respect your guests' space.
- Preserve your family unit. Take family outings without your guests.
- Beware of getting emotionally involved with any of your guests. Go on dates with your spouse.
- Don't take advantage of guests as free labour or for baby sitting.

Council Contemplates SABBATH at Annual Meeting

Amy MacLachlan

From May 6th to 9th, the 65 Women's Missionary Society (WMS) delegates from across Canada were blessed with bright, blue skies and sunny days perfect for contemplating the Sabbath as the Council met at Crieff Hills Community for its annual meeting. The meeting's theme, Sabbath: Finding Calm in Chaos, ran throughout the four days with worship and Bible study. Guest speakers discussed the practice of Sabbath and spoke of the importance of defining what Sabbath means to you, figuring out how to take time away to meditate, pray, and listen, and realizing what Sabbath can do for individuals, and for the church.

The deep sense of community and the joy that Council members garner by gathering together was evident as they lifted their voices to sing, pray, laugh, talk, and share meals. Highlighting this feeling of togetherness, outreach, and care was Joan Cruickshank, of St. John's, Medicine Hat, who shared her passion for her congregation's prayer shawl ministry.

"About two years ago, my mom broke her hip, and was in hospital," she said. "One day, a parcel came. We opened the parcel and got goose bumps, because in it was a beautiful prayer shawl. The WMS group in Nova Scotia sent it. It was like a floodgate of love had opened. We both sat there with tears in our eyes. It was knitted with love just for her, and she put it around her shoulders. From then on, I was hooked."

The prayer shawl ministry is worldwide, and patterns and other information can be found online (www.shawlministry.com). "If anyone is interested in this ministry, it is worthwhile," she said. "It's wonderful!"

Getting down to business

Though the women who had gathered (and a few men!) seemingly enjoyed the fellowship, fun, and friendship of the meeting more than the business aspect, they did decide on several items:

The WMS report to General Assembly was accepted for information. One item of note is the request for information for the Resource Book, which is being revised. Information related to installation, recognition, memoriam services, and closure of groups is needed for inclusion in the book. It can be e-mailed to the WMS Programming and Marketing Coordinator Alexis McKeown at amckeown@presbyterian.ca.

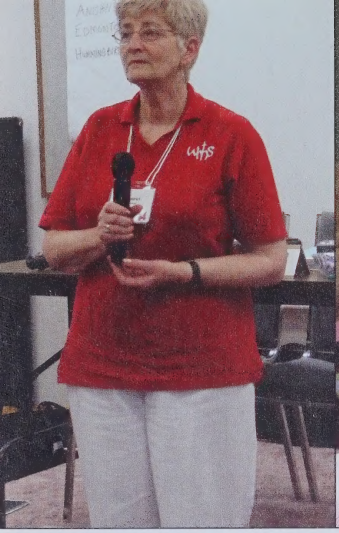
There is talk of improving the WMS Book Room's website to enable customers to buy books online. Discussions with the national office are ongoing, and a clearer answer will be given once the church's national website has been fully revamped and re-launched.

Money for Mission 2008

The WMS Council voted to support the following mission projects:

Canada:
- Tyndale-St. Georges for Educational Development Program – $1,200
- Cariboo Ministry for two flights to remote communities – $1,200
- Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry – $1,500
- Anishinabe Fellowship Centre for apartment furniture – $3,000
- Edmonton Urban Native Ministry – $1,500
- Hummingbird Ministry – $1,600

International:
- Ukraine/Romania for experimental farm project – $25,000
- India for community health programs – $5,000
- Malawi for water wells – $5,000
- Yu-Shan Theological Seminary's chapel, Taiwan – $5,000



Though not yet finalized, the wording on the Prescawa plaque to commemorate the location of the original Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School in Shoal Lake, ON, was presented by Gloria Wasacase and Lois Klempa. The inscription will include a very brief history of the WMS' role in the residential school, after which it was named, and how the land and buildings were used after the school was relocated to Kenora, ON. The land is currently the property of the Presbytery of Winnipeg and is being leased to Winkler Bible Camp.

Monies were granted to various causes including $350 each to four people to attend the Princeton Theological Seminary youth forum; a one-time grant of $10,000 to The Presbyterian College's lay education program; up to $2,000 to Camp d'action biblique, a French camp in the Presbytery of Montreal; and $5,000 to I-bi Chuan, a young man from Taiwan, to help cover his expenses while working towards his Masters of Divinity at the Vancouver School of Theology. Chuan travelled to Canada last year with Murray Garvin, overseas staff member of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC).

Lawrence Pentelow, executive director of Crieff, updated Council on plans to renovate the retreat centre. He noted that his children (all in their twenties) have noticeably different expectations of church than he does. "For them, enlightenment or joy from faith comes from things like Canada Youth and praise sessions of 500 people, while retreats are generally groups of two, four, six, or eight people. Those who are my age think of 15 or 20 people. Conferences are getting bigger, and retreats are getting smaller. So, we're looking to change and adapt Crieff to suit these needs." Increasing

space, improving facilities, offering greater rental space, and enabling people to come at any time for various activities are all on the list of proposed changes.

Healing and reconciliation

Lori Ransom, healing and reconciliation animator, updated Council on the church's work with Native Peoples, and led the group through a presentation on Native challenges in Canada. Ransom has worked with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs for 18 years, and began her position with the church in September.

Ransom noted that the PCC operated 14 schools prior to church union, though its responsibility dropped to two after 1925. In 2002, the church hosted a gathering of former residential schools staff. Ransom raised the question of whether additional support for the staff might be needed.

She then highlighted the church's confession from 1994, stating that the central theme of the confession is repentance and reconciliation. "Repentance leads to new life," she said. "It's glorious!"

She emphasized that the church's mandate is to encourage people to simply meet with Aboriginal people. She suggests attending a pow wow, visiting a friendship centre, contacting a local band, contacting KAIROS (a social justice organization supported by the PCC), applying for healing and reconciliation program funding, and contacting Ransom to speak at your church.

The 2006 International AIDS Conference

Alexis McKeown and Alyth Mutart shared their experiences from the Ecumenical Pre-conference held in Toronto last August just prior to the

International AIDS Meeting that attracted 30,000 people. Faith in Action: Keeping the Promise drew a smaller crowd of 500, but proved to be a meaningful time of fellowship, visioning, and education.

The conference noted the challenges of overcoming HIV and AIDS, including stigma, access to education and treatment, engaging churches, and complacency. Strategies to help fight the disease include greater participation of people living with HIV and AIDS, building a language of compassion and inclusion, encouraging youth voices which will hopefully lead to fewer youth infections, addressing gender inequality and poverty, building partnerships, overcoming differences of approach and moral beliefs between denominations, and moving beyond the traditional prevention message of ABC (Abstain, Be Faithful, Use Condoms), to SAVED (Safer sexual practices, Access to ARVs, Voluntary counselling and testing, Empowerment, Disease control).

Travelling to Taiwan

A group of WMS women, including outgoing President Margaret McGillivray and Moderator Wilma Welsh, travelled to Taiwan in April. While there, they attended the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan's General Assembly; visited old missionary residences and a memorial to George Leslie Mackay; met with PCC overseas staff Murray Garvin who teaches at Yu-Shan Seminary; visited the Presbyterian Bible College; and met with the President of Taiwan.

The women also attended a church service, and gained valuable insight into what it means to reach out to your neighbour. "I started to think: How do they work that out in theology and practical education?" said McGillivray. "All the churches have an emphasis on bible study, and bible study leads to action because they ask how they can be a community-oriented church."

Community initiatives include teaching disabled people computer skills, sewing and carpentry to high

school drop-outs, hiring people in the community to do odd jobs to help combat the high rate of unemployment, and setting up a university-level program for seniors in English, music, and Christian philosophy.

"Each situation has its own opportunities and challenges for reaching out, but it's important that we ask ourselves who our neighbour is?" said McGillivray. "And never forget prayer. It's a very powerful tool because it's a tool for change."

Mission Exposure Tours in 2008

Sarah Kim, Executive Director, announced that the 2008 exposure tours will be to India (January and February) and Eastern Europe (October). The 14-day India trip will cost approximately $4,000, and will focus on the HIV/AIDS work of PCC

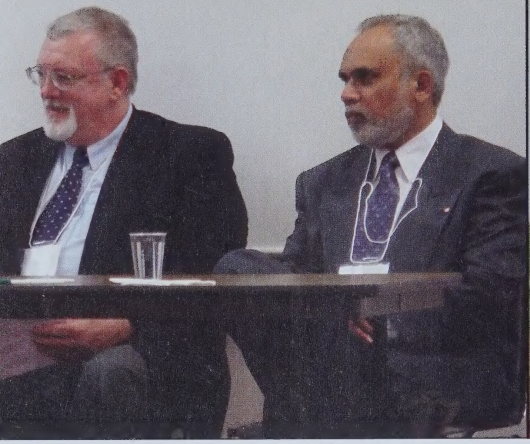
Mission focus: Guatemala

A new mission study resource entitled "Making Connections: Maya People of Guatemala and Aboriginal People of Canada" will be available this summer. As a preview, Council was led through a study of Guatemala by Alexis McKeown, who accompanied a WMS group on an exposure tour in Guatemala last year. Continually challenged by poverty, violence, corruption, natural disasters, and environmental degradation, the Mayan people of Guatemala remain steadfast, resolute, hospitable, and thankful for the little they do have. "They can teach us about calm in the midst of chaos!" said McKeown.

Guatemala quick facts:

- Survived a 36-year civil war. More than 100,000 were killed; 400 Mayan villages destroyed.
- Hurricane Mitch hit in 1998, leaving 750,000 people injured, displaced, missing, evacuated, or dead. Hurricane Stan whipped through in 2005, affecting more than 470,000 lives and damaging almost 35,000 homes. Rehabilitation efforts are ongoing.
- Corn is a staple among the Mayans. Because of its vital importance, Communion is often conducted with water and corn tamales.
- Almost 50% of Guatemala's population is indigenous, but they account for less than a quarter of Guatemala's total income and consumption.
- More than half of the agricultural land is controlled by only 2.5 per cent of the country's farmers. About 40 per cent of the rural population does not own land.

The study resource connects the plight of the indigenous Mayan people with Canada's Native peoples, highlighting their similar situations of poverty and discrimination.



partners, and the long-standing relationships shared by the WMS and the people of India. Details regarding the Europe trip are still being discussed.

Rick Fee, General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency (LMA), strongly believes mission tours in Canada and overseas are tremendous opportunities for spiritual growth, shared experiences, and greater awareness of socio-economic realities.

"From the context of the Presbyterian Church, with an older membership, one innovative idea would see the development of programs wherein grandparents would travel to overseas destinations or other parts of Canada with their grandchildren."

Fee said he would encourage collaboration between the Atlantic Mission Society, the WMS, and the LMA to release resources to foster such an idea.

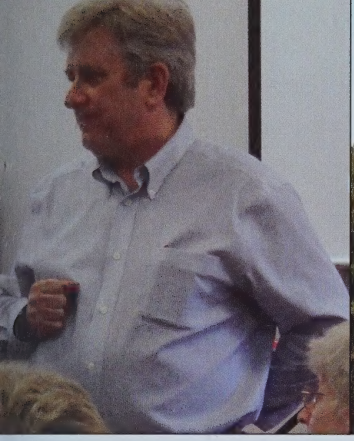
National Council of Women

Druse Bryan is the WMS representative on the National Council of Women. The council votes on various issues for action each year, and Bryan brought these topics to the WMS for input. Some of the issues include: enforcing social and environmental requirements for Canadian mining companies operating abroad; maintaining the status quo in Senate reforms in that it should remain an appointed, rather than an elected body; regulating new media, including violent video games, as per the UN's Rights of the Child, of which Canada was a signatory; and establishing an independent, external complaint mechanism for federally-sentenced women in Canadian institutions.

Multi-faith panel on Sabbath

The Rev. Andrew Reid of New St. James, London, and Siddiq Burney, a Muslim chaplain and member of the Halton Islamic Association, shared their thoughts on Sabbath.

"Why did God have to rest?" asked Reid. "God does not faint or grow weary. So why rest? I don't know, but



it tells me that the concept of Sabbath and rest is woven into the very fabric of creation, and is part of what it means to be human."

He noted that Jesus gave mixed messages about Sabbath: healing the sick but also attending temple, permitting his disciples to pick grain, but also retreating to a quiet place to be with his Father.

"'Be still and know that I am God.' That's what Sabbath means to me. Is it a day, a mindset, a practice? Maybe it's all three. Maybe it should be."

Burney spoke about the importance of prayer to the Muslim faith and the belief that you must live a good life, and do everything in honour of Allah in hopes of being forgiven on the Day of Judgment.

"Islam is a way of life," he said. "The prophet said everything you do will be judged based on your intention. So when I get up, I say I will try to follow your commandments, and follow the traditions of the prophet Mohammed. I won't do things just to please myself, so everything I do becomes my worship."

He noted that the first chapter of the Koran is 99 per cent identical to the Lord's Prayer; praising God, thanking him for his blessings, and expressing awe and wonder. He also discussed the role of women in Islam, saying that various cultures have interpreted the Koran in a way that de-values women, placing them below men in society. However, he argued that the Muslim faith sees men and women as equals and does not, in its true form, advocate the subjection of women.

Justice and the Sabbath

Stephen Allen, associate secretary for Justice Ministries, led a reflection on justice and Sabbath, and how the church can practise this tradition in the 21st century.

"This is a time in history marked by profound challenges to society and our earth," said Allen. "Society is driven by values of consumerism and

WMS Executive

The new WMS president was ushered in. Druse Bryan, of Roxboro, Que., succeeds Margaret McGillivray, who will serve as past-president for one year. Joan Smith of Port Hope,ON, will serve as vice president, and Susan McLennan of Thunder Bay, ON is the incoming secretary.

Council also welcomed the Rev. John-Peter Smit, new regional staff consultant, for congregational development in the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario, and Bermuda.

Smit commissioned the new executive. His sermon left the group silent, then murmuring in agreement, and excited by the challenge he set down.

"It might be necessary for you to take back the church," he said. "You carried this church for 10 years after 1925. You are the most respected people in the church. We look to you for clues and cues of where we go from here. I suggest maybe it's time to cash in those chips.

"We have been somber and serious and worried for far too long. It is the joy of the Lord that is our strength, not the seriousness or the sorrow. These strong WMS women, who have been changed by a powerful God, have been changing the world in the name of a powerful God."

He then told the story of Queen Esther, and her reluctance to help save the Jews from destruction after finding out from Mordecai of the plot to do so.

"God's work will be done without the WMS, and without the PCC. What we have to decide is to be obedient or not," said Smit. And then, borrowing the words of Mordecai himself, he said, "But who knows, maybe you've come to royal dignity for such a time as this."

consumption. Individualism is prized, often before the common good…It's a somber picture, but it's set against hope. People are seeking to find meaning in their lives, and the church has a place to be and a role to play."

"So how does this concern Sabbath?" he asked. "Sabbath has the potential to redirect and transform our lives…It gives our faith meaning. We are called to build the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven; to restore right relations; to seek justice in the world, even if it seems impossible. Yes, it's difficult and challenging, but it should never discourage us from following that path and from trying."

Distinguished Guests

The Rev. Arlene Onuoha

The council had the pleasure of welcoming several missionary guest speakers. Arlene Onuoha has served in Nigeria since 1978 with The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria (PCN) in numerous capacities.

Onuoha said one of the main focuses of the PCN is building new churches. "The church has put more effort into growing and expanding. Changes happened; evangelism began. We also took measures to teach the gospel more effectively. We cannot do the things Jesus commanded us to do if we don't know what they are. So, we prepared Bible studies that would be used by all the churches for each year. And we became more intentional in justice and peace commissions."

Nigeria is a volatile country in many ways, with political corruption, tribal conflict, and poverty. "So reconciliation is important," she said. "We set up and send committees to try to help sort out the problems."

She said the church also started a program called WASAY (Win a Soul a Year), and OPAC (Operation Plant a Church) where every parish, presbytery, and synod was encouraged to plant a church within a year. When she worked with the PCN's National

Directorate of Mission (which she left last August), the department's mandate was to establish a Presbyterian presence in the capitals of the 15 states in Nigeria that didn't yet have one. Three years ago, that was fulfilled.

"If God sends you to a place, he wants you to infect that place with the gospel and make a difference," said Onuoha, noting that building relationships and community is key to success. "Tell people who have never heard the gospel. People who have heard it, need nurturing, but the main goal is bringing new people in."

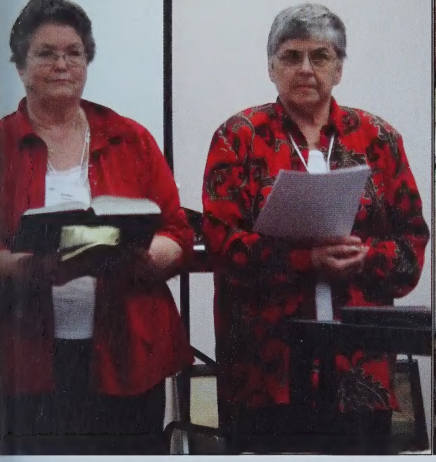
David and Anna Pandy-Szekeres

The Pandy-Szekeres' have been missionaries in Eastern Europe with the PCC since 2000, though they both worked with the Hungarian Reformed Church of the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine (mainly targeting the minority Hungarian population) for many years prior. David and his wife Anna, who is a teacher, work mainly in Christian education, and they have helped establish three Christian secondary schools in the area, as well as a school for gypsy children. The church also operates summer camps, orphanages, food banks, a seminary, health care centres, and other community programs. David also trains missionaries.

"This church, though struggling, looked around and saw others were worse off than it was and decided to reach out and help those who were in need," said David.

"The church got weaker and weaker," he continued. "By 1991, there were 86 congregations still functioning and 23 ministers to serve them. Then the Soviet Union collapsed. The church was enthusiastic; it could freely preach the gospel. But it was so weak. The church was brought to its knees in a dysfunctional country. But it is a church that wants to do something."

When Anna moved from Hungary to Ukraine in 1993, it was to start the first Christian secondary school in the country—and possibly in the entire



former Soviet Union. Today, there are about 100 students in each of the three schools, and about 700 have graduated. Many go on to become pastors, teachers, or doctors.

"We are missionaries; the Lord shaped us to be so," said Anna, a native of Transylvania, Romania. "In the midst of poverty, we found a very rich, very blessed church. Physically maybe there's poverty, but where the Holy Spirit is present, the land is blessed."

Celebrating India

In honour of Pauline Brown, who has retired as a missionary to India after arriving there in 1951, the Council celebrated the East Asian country and the church's work there. A public health nurse, Brown was first appointed by the WMS. She was present throughout Council, while former missionaries to India (Eleanor Crabtree, Nancy Howard, Clarence and Catherine McMullen, Doreen Morrison, Evelyn Murdoch, Diane Petrie Osborn, Margaret and Jake Vanderzweerde, Diana Wadsworth, and Ida White) visited for this special night.

New book announced

Pauline Brown, the church's just-retired overseas staff in India, announced that at the time of the Council meeting, copies of a new book detailing 20 accounts of the now-released Bhil prisoners were just coming off the press in Indore, India. The prisoners recount when, where, and how they were arrested, share their thoughts while living behind bars (some were jailed for 2 ½ years), and reflect on what their imprisonment meant. "Most feel that God had a purpose for them in this," said Brown. "I find it very inspiring." The book will be available in the WMS Book Room.

When Brown opened her mouth to speak, the crowded room fell silent. And when she joked, which was often, the room erupted in laughter. This woman, whom many describe as "amazing", "awesome", and "one-of-a-kind", quickly downplays any compliments, unfailingly re-directing the glory to God.

She read a letter that was written by one of the women at the Jobat Church, where Brown attends, listing the outreach activities of the women's group. The lengthy list included visits to the homes of the elderly, disabled, sick, and bereaved; offering small amounts of financial aid to those in need; preparing Lenten devotions for families and holding Lenten fasts and special offerings; attending special services at surrounding churches; hosting Christmas parties and giving gifts to elderly members; and organizing drama and singing events.

Brown then spoke from her heart telling the gathered of her beginnings in India, her gratitude to the WMS for taking a chance on an unseasoned young woman, and how God has led her the entire way.

"Most of us don't know how we get to where we get, and in 1950, if anyone told me I was going to be a missionary, I would have laughed in their face! But God had a place for me…So I came to Toronto for an interview and they said, 'We've been praying for a nurse for four months.' That was in May, I was designated in October, and I was in India in November. I had no preparation. No deaconess school. I had never prayed out loud in front of anyone in my life! I was terrified," said Brown.

"But you see, the WMS believed in the power of prayer. And just as so many of God's people who have been called have said, 'Huh, I'm not prepared! I'm not the right type.' But they believed that they had prayed, and somebody came, so that person must be the one to send! And they sent this

crazy, loud, wild female who was so blessed over the years."

"I hope that the men and women in the church take a page out of the WMS book, and I'm extremely serious, that when we pray, then let us believe that when an answer apparently comes, even if our minds think, 'Oh heavens!' that God is being faithful, and he's asking us to be faithful."

"I thank you for this opportunity that you gave me 56 years ago. It's been a great, great experience. To have blood relatives in Canada, and heart relatives in Canada and India is a double blessing. And because of you, because of your faithfulness to the Lord, some of us have had the opportunity to have this double blessing. I thank you for a terrific life."

Finding time for fun

Council also squeezed in some time for laughing, singing, and fun. The opening of council was followed by several ice-breakers, including a Bible story quiz and several humorous skits about getting old, husband and wife relationships, and a George Carlin monologue about how life revolves around acquiring more "stuff."

Laurie Atkins, a local Christian singer/songwriter, entertained the crowd with her acoustic guitar, contemplative lyrics, and soprano voice.

"Sabbath moments are not just for the Sabbath and for in church," she said. "Sabbath moments happen all through the week. I hope you'll grasp a Sabbath moment and have a moment with God, while I sing."

Atkins led the group in various tunes she wrote herself, including one about chickens (that had all in attendance clucking and flapping their "wings"). The song was actually nominated for a Covenant Award for Best Gospel Children's Song.

"We can worship in fun because I'm sure God was the one who invented laughter," she said.

The daughter of a Presbyterian father and Jewish mother, she draws much of her song-writing inspiration from the Bible. "You are a mission society," she said in closing, "and it's so important to share the gospel with people who haven't heard it. The last hour is approaching—let's bring as many along to Christ as possible."

Taking time for Scripture

Dorothy Henderson, a diaconal minister and Associate Secretary for Ministry with Children, Families and Youth at the national office, led Bible study each morning which focused on Sabbath. Each study began with a short lesson, and then Council either discussed the passage as it related to Sabbath in small groups, contemplated the message on their own in a quiet corner, or studied the issue further using Bible commentaries and academic texts.

On Monday morning, Henderson listed three goals of Sabbath: It is a time to receive, a time to be open, and a time to slow down. "Sabbath is a time for recovering core human values, a time to pamper the soul, and a time for permissive enjoyment," she said. "It is a time to pay attention and focus on what is important to us, namely, God, ourselves, and relationships with others. And it is a time to celebrate the grand finale of God's creation."

Council began their study with the first focus—paying attention to God. They read Psalm 63:1–8, which is a passage relating to longing for God, and Psalm 139:1–18, which talks about openness.

On Tuesday, the groups read 3 John: 2–4, and Henderson spoke about paying attention to self, or what she referred to as "wholeness" of body, mind, and spirit. She said for women, taking time for self is often neglected, but she stressed the importance of doing so.

The final Bible study focused on paying attention to others. After reading John 13:34–35 and 1 Corinthians 13, the small groups discussed the nature of Christian relationships and talked about what they could do in the future

to improve, repair, or maintain loving relationships.

The Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs of Erskine Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, also led Council through a time of Sabbath prayer and contemplation in her Morning Watch sessions. Individuals were invited to "find calm in the midst of chaos" through quiet, early morning times of meditation, deep breathing, private Bible study, and time with God.

All good things come to an end

Wilma Welsh, outgoing moderator and WMS treasurer, closed the meeting with an inspiring story she received one day via e-mail. *The Concert* told of a young boy who nearly ruined the recital of a piano master by finding his way onto the stage and playing Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.

"At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered 'Keep playing.' Then, leaning over, he reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part…Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience.

"Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work can truly be beautiful.

"God doesn't seem to call the equipped; rather, He equips the called. And remember: Don't quit. Keep playing."

Amy MacLachlan is a staff writer with the Presbyterian Record. *She is a graduate of Carleton University's journalism program.*

Photos from this article where taken by Katherine Allen, Catherine Blatch, Alexis McKeown, Susan and Mark McLennan.

Ian and Linda Shaw
Skeldon Presbyterian Manse
Corriverton, Guyana

Friends,

With the winding down of several Lenten activities, the fast approach of Easter, and the pending visit of two friends from Winnipeg, it seems that this is almost a "now or never" time to update you a little on our life here thus far in 2007. The pace of the next three weeks will be fast and furious.

One of the traditional practices of Lent is to give up something. Usually such discipline is self-imposed and voluntary. We have had Lenten deprivation descend upon us. Basically, we have been deprived of the option of driving our vehicle. Although we felt we had touched all the relevant bases last year prior to our purchase of the van, a nuance in interpretation of legal 'finery' came to light on a routine fitness renewal in February, and we were declared unqualified to operate this vehicle. The difficult part is we cannot become qualified until we have driven with a Guyana licence for two years—and that won't be until September 2008! A great deal of effort has been expended, first in seeking clarification and second in pursuing an exemption to the existing rules. At this point, while we haven't yet listed the vehicle, it does appear we will have to sell it and purchase a smaller and less versatile vehicle. We haven't been able as yet to work out all the ramifications of that change; but it will have some substantive effect on what we have been doing and what we were considering doing. Every Government has its quirks and we seem to have found one here. There remains a couple of slim options to pursue, but only because we are Easter people and are hoping for a happy resolution.

In addition, only days after receiving our car news, Ian managed to tip some tea over his keyboard. The repair shop was able to restore everything but the wireless internet function. The repair, however, was a two-week process. A lot of Ian's work wasn't backed up on Linda's machine. Going to one computer from two, as well as working at side by side desks, did strain us somewhat. A few days later, while we were trying to resolve the driving problem at the regional police station about an hour away from our house, a thief jumped the back fence, broke the lock off the basement door, and stole the church's weed-whacker and our water pump. We are glad February was a short month!

On Ian's side of things, 2007 has been up and down. One of the congregations seems to be responding well, while the other isn't. That's somewhat disconcerting for him as he continues to look at the three-year term as a deadline to have established some

foundational leadership. In one case, it would appear to be a very optimistic goal. On the up-side, two excellent people are being transferred back to the second congregation. Overall, Presbytery work has been more promising. Ian's biggest challenge is not to insist on the Canadian way but on a way that respects Guyanese custom within the dynamics of the Kingdom. While he has probably experienced the three-forward, two-back dance, it does appear that Presbytery is becoming the kind of 'bishop' the Presbyterian system envisions. Even his most vocal 'opponent' comments that the direction the Presbytery is heading is positive.

Linda has been a blur of activity in 2007. She has just returned from her first workshops in Essequibo on the western side of the country (leave 6:00 a.m.; arrive 1:00 p.m.; two ferries, one bridge). There was good attendance and she threw in a Youth group meeting, a Ladies' Group meeting, and preached twice on Sunday for good measure. She has led three other workshops, attended a Presbytery's women's retreat (with the usual Spartan accommodation), a National Youth executive meeting, and National Sports Day (that means leaving at 5:00 a.m., arriving at 10:00 a.m.; one ferry, one bridge). She has also been continuing to develop the children's ministry at 48 villages, the reading club programs at Massiah and Skeldon, and the Sunday School at the same two congregations. Additionally, she has been working hard to get a V.B.S. curriculum prepared for a series of workshops in May.

Linda's other major focus (there are numerous minor ones) has been the Youth In Mission event. There was some detail work to finalize for the arrival of the Canadian group in August; but mostly it was working on all the details of the decision to have some Guyana Youth go to Canada on an exchange. She prepared the application forms, distributed the application forms (across the country), set up selection protocols, and thought through the details and dynamics of facilitating their departure. The selections will be made this weekend and the number of applicants has been high, which means disappointing most of the applicants. Pray for a good process on Saturday.

After waiting and waiting, Zoom finally announced their summer schedule a week ago. Unfortunately, their prices were higher than anticipated, so we checked Caribbean Airlines again and discovered that their prices had dropped. So we are returning to Canada in two months for some study leave and holidays. Most of our time will be in Winnipeg (basically all of June) with one week at the family cottage for the Canada Day weekend. I know we will cross paths with some of you while we're back, a prospect that delights us.

Hope this finds you well and able to be stirred by the most dramatic announcement of all times, "He is not here, he is risen!"

The Rev. Marion Barclay-MacKay
The Rev. Dr. Donald W. MacKay
Ghana

Equipping "The Saints" in Rural Ghana

The two of us along with the Rev. Pabby, Director of the Nsaba Lay Training Centre (NLTC), shared a moment of amazement together. We just arrived at the church that would be the site of a training event we were leading for the next number of hours. We arrived in plenty of time before the 9:30 a.m. start-up in order to get organized "on location." However, a number of participants had already arrived and prayer and singing were in progress! When we observed that today we might actually begin the workshop on time, something of a rarity in our experience here, the District Minister smiled and told us he had sent out the word that the event would begin at 8:00 a.m.! Here was a minister who "knew his flock"—at least when it came to event start-up times. Indeed, we were able to get going as we had planned and anticipated.

On this particular day, we were engaged in doing a "mobile course" on the theme of general church leadership. A group of 51 participants gathered, along with the two ministers, who serve a district of ten congregations, and three preaching stations. In the group were elders or presbyters (as they are called in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana), several catechists, caretakers who serve as congregational leaders in the absence of the ministers, a number of group leaders, and teachers from the various congregations.

As the six-hour event unfolded, it would be quite recognizable in its format to anyone who has attended similar training events within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We opened with a brief time of worship, followed by a theme presentation where the three of us, each in turn focused for a few minutes on an aspect of leadership demonstrated by Moses, Nehemiah, and Jesus Christ. We broke off into small groups to begin the task of making connections from the biblical model to the experience of being a leader in a congregation today. Each group reported back which led to an open forum where questions, issues, and concerns of general church leadership were raised and discussed. After a much needed stretch and refreshment break, the participants divided into three leadership interest groups. The NLTC Director, the Rev. Pabby, led a session on the importance of planning in church leadership. Marion led a session on the care and support of teachers and group leaders within the congregation. Donald focused his session on the pastoral care and visitation of church members. Once again, we re-convened as a total group, with someone from each group sharing two or three of the key ideas that had been presented. The day ended with a time of guided personal reflection, prayers offered by three participants, and everyone sharing

together in a common blessing before heading home.

What was unusual about this day, at least for us, was that most of it was conducted in the local language. Through experience, we are learning what is necessary to train others when understanding a common language is a barrier. While English is the official language of Ghana we have found that in the region where we live and work, it is the local language that is used for daily life—including church gatherings and functions. On this day two people in the group served as translators, one for Donald and one for Marion. This meant that during the day we needed to keep our sentences short, clear, and to the point! Occasionally, we were met by a perplexed look on our translator's face as a phrase or word we used did not have an easy equivalent in the local dialect. However, the group present was gracious in these perplexing moments and usually someone had a suggestion of a possible translation that eased us all over the bump and allowed us to continue. In addition to the two local translators, prior to the event itself we had arranged to meet with those who would be leading the small group discussion time. These were individuals who had a functional grasp of English, although they might not know how to read the written word. The discussion questions were provided in written form, then reviewed in English, and then in Twi. By going over the questions several times, those whose reading skills were limited were picking up content by oral learning. Even during the workshop itself, there was constant repetition of the material, which seems to be a part of the rhythm of learning where most people have very limited literacy skills.

Providing training events for local church leaders, such as this day-long "mobile course," is one aspect of our work through the Nsaba Lay Training Centre. However, we are able to prepare for, and provide for this event with minimal cost to the district in which it was held, because of the assistance and support we received from *Presbyterians Sharing*... including gifts from the Women's Missionary Society and the Atlantic Mission Society. *You were present in the heat and the perplexing moments, the inspiration and the encouragement of this training event in the lives of brothers and sisters in Christ here in this place. It is in partnership together that we use the gifts God has given us for the equipping and up-building of "the saints" so that lives may be graced with the healing and reconciling love that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

A letter from the Jobat Christian School can be viewed on the WMS web site, www.presbyterian.ca/wms. Pauline Brown read the letter at the Annual Council Meeting in May. The letter explains the school's service in their Church and surrounding community.

Synodical

The 60th annual meeting of the Synodical of **Southwestern Ontario** was held at Knox, Listowel on April 17–18. The theme was "Honour the Past, Celebrate the Present, Challenge the Future." President Pauline Lindsay chaired the meeting. Members of Knox and the Rev. John Zondag extended a warm and gracious welcome.

In spite of being jet lagged following her trip to Taiwan, Moderator Wilma Welsh inspired us to "Honour the Past." Wilma has been an overseas staff member for years. WMS President Margaret McGillivray also spoke about her experiences in Taiwan.

Ken Kim, Director of PWS&D, gave us reasons to "Celebrate the Present" with encouraging stories of mission around the world. Ken shared some of his hands-on experiences while visiting Malawi and Guatemala. He told of how people benefit from the money sent to PWS&D and the Canadian Food Bank.

The Rev. Carol Woods, Chaplain at McMaster University, Hamilton gave us hope as we "Challenge the Future." Ms. Woods gave a talk and a slideshow presentation about the joint Chaplaincy at McMaster. She told us of how they help students on campus when they come in for support.

The Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, AEC, presented highlights of her very busy, exciting, and challenging ministry. Spencer Edwards, Synod Youth Consultant, also had a busy year. He asked for our prayers as they strive to move forward with a new model and vision for the Presbyterian Young People's Society.

Camp Kintail is gearing up for another season. The water system up-grade is almost complete but further work is required; therefore, donations would be appreciated.

Tricia Browne from the Book Room had a wonderful assortment of books, pins, and gift items. Sales were brisk. The ever-popular WMS T-shirts are now available in three colours—navy, red, and white. If you don't yet own one, call Katherine Allen at 1-800-619-7301.

It was a pleasure to have Dorothy Neal, Past Synodical President, conduct the installation of officers.

With hymn sings, musical entertainment, worship and communion, study, speakers, and prayers, the time spent at Synodical was a truly uplifting experience.

Gail Connor, with additions from Beverly Cassel

Presbyterial

The 93rd annual meeting of **Bruce-Grey** WMS as held in Dromore, ON. Following muffins and coffee, we were formally welcomed by the Rev.

Guest speaker and past moderator, Jean Morris with Kay Mori, President of the BC Synodical at the 93rd Annual BC Synodical at Cache Creek on May 28–30. The theme of the meeting was "The Seasons of Life."

On April 21, members of Manitoba & North West Ontario Synodical met for their annual meeting at St. Andrew's in Thunder Bay, ON. The theme of the meeting was "In Christ there is no East or West." Guest speaker Alexis McKeown spoke on her recent trip to Guatemala. Arlene Onuoha spoke of general mission and also focused on her work in Nigeria.

Pearl Visarhelyi of Amos Church and their WMS President Shirley Eccles. President Alice Poland of Southampton greeted the gathering of 63 members as she constituted the meeting.

Each year, the Synodical sponsors a child from each Ontario Presbyterial to attend camp. This year, Port Elgin WMS has the privilege of sending an elementary student to camp Kintail.

Carol Makowski, from Executive Council, relayed news of the school near Jobat, India. She explained that they have had their classrooms rebuilt with WMS financing. It was proposed for each WMS group from Bruce-Grey to contribute $35 to pay for the tuition for one elementary pupil for one year.

The Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs reviewed highlights of her trip to Taiwan and Seoul, South Korea. She left us with astounding figures of thousands of Christians in both countries who regularly fill the churches to capacity.

Following the bountiful buffet lunch, Judy Burrows introduced John and Judy Schultz, who have enjoyed a variety of undertakings and have experienced rewarding moments along the way. In the last 25 years, they have been foster parents for more than 40 children of all ages. The Schultz's also spoke on behalf of "The Shantymen," a group of missionaries, who are known as SCA International (Serving Christ Alone). This organization began in the 1920s when they brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to the isolated logging and mining camps. Currently, they seek out the lonely, depressed, and emotionally disturbed, and strive to raise their spirits by word of prayer,

song, or simply listening to their concerns. Judy Schultz told of her recent visits to inmates in the correctional institution in Guelph and the Brantford Jail.

Our day concluded with the celebration of communion with Ms. Visarhelyi officiating.

Eva Metler

East Toronto Presbyterial's Spring Event was held on May 9 at Willowdale Presbyterian Church. Joan Neilson and Anna Cook conducted the singing of some familiar mission themed hymns as members and guests arrived.

The Rev. Walter Hearn warmly welcomed the group to Willowdale Church and Marjorie Ross opened the meeting. During devotion, Lorna Teare reminded us that we are Christ's representatives called to share our faith.

Guest speaker, the Rev. David Webber, took us on a picture tour of the Cariboo House Church Mission areas where he works. His beautiful pictures and interesting commentary helped us understand and appreciate the challenges of serving such a vast and remote area. President Doris McAndless thanked Mr. Webber for his presentation. Everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship, refreshments, and the opportunity to have a more informal visit with David, his wife Linda and daughter Chelsey.

Eleanor Keith

On March 15, **Essex-Kent** Presbyterial held their annual meeting at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Windsor, ON. The Rev. Ron Sharpe extended greetings from the host church. New St. Andrew's Dover led the worship and Dresden St. Andrew's was responsible for the memorial service. President Connie Brown constituted the meeting and Secretary Ruth Smith took the roll call and read the minutes from the 2006 annual meeting. The annual reports were adopted as printed.

Guest speaker, the Rev. Sarah Kim, led a lively and enjoyable discussion about the WMS. Ms. Kim installed the officers for 2007. Mrs. Shirley McCall is our new President. Sharon Robinson gave the courtesies and the meeting closed with prayer.

Frances Monk

On Saturday, April 14th, the **Kingston** Presbyterial WMS held their 21st annual meeting at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Belleville, ON. The 45 women who gathered there celebrated this special day with the theme "Celebrating 40 Years of Women's Ordination."

The Opening Worship Service, written by the Rev. Maureen Walter, was presented by three ordained women ministers from our Presbytery—the Rev. Theresa Charlton (St. Andrew's, Tweed), the Rev. Anne Marie Jones (St. Andrew's,

The Rev. Lynne Donovan, Picton; the Rev. Kate Jordan, Ganonoque; the Rev. Teresa Charlton, Tweed; and the Rev. Anne-Marie Jones, Belleville celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women with the Kingston Presbyterial.

Belleville), and the Rev. Kate Jordan (St. Andrew's, Gananoque).

A welcome was extended to the Rev. Sarah Kim and the Rev. Linda Reid who arrived from Toronto. Ms. Reid gave a PowerPoint presentation about the history of the 40 years of women's ordination entitled "Putting Women in their Place." How far we have come from the days when women attending Ewart College had to sit in the back of the chapel during worship service! When he spoke of the 1966 Assembly, then-moderator G. Deane Johnston described allowing the ordination of women as the most important thing. This ruling survived a challenge in 1967. Since that time, we have seen a number of firsts—first female Principal of Knox College and first woman elder. By 2006, 20% of Presbyterian Ministers were women. The Kingston Presbyterial alone has six ordained women ministers.

After lunch, the five previously named ministers were joined by another female minister of our Presbytery—the Rev. Lynn Donovan (St. Andrew's, Picton) for a panel discussion on the "Journey to Ministry." Each woman spoke of how they were called to ministry, their mentors, and what had given them the greatest satisfaction. We continue to be amazed at the variety of ways God calls and leads the Kingston Presbytery. We are blessed by those God has called to serve here and who have found their place in the pulpit.

Another highlight of the day was the presentation of two Life Memberships for faithful service: Audrie Cossar, for over 10 years as Literature and Glad Tidings Secretary, and Marion Conchie for 10 years served as Treasurer.

Joy Tufts

The 93rd annual meeting of the **Montreal** Presbyterial was held at Knox, Kensington and First Presbyterian Church Montreal, Quebec on Saturday, March 24.

The meeting began with a welcome from Grace Thornley-Brown and the history of the church was given by

Howard Dearlove. Host minister, the Rev. Allen Aiken, led devotion on the theme "About Shouting." The business meeting followed with President Genevieve holding in the chair. The various reports were presented, received, and adopted. Literature Secretary Lois Klempa gave book reports and the exercise break was led by Peggy Wegrich.

Trixie McBride introduced guest speakers, the Rev. Dr. Barry Mack and Peter McDougall. They spoke on: "Mission in India, 130 years of the WMS." They had visited India recently and showed us slides of their experiences.

After lunch, a hymn sing was led by the ladies of Côte des Neiges accompanied by Geraldine Uliki. Sarah Kim brought greetings from Toronto. Anita Mack led a program "What Do We Sing to the Lord?" Courtesies were given by Linda Gerry, and Grace Thornley-Brown gave the report of the nominating committee. We closed the meeting by singing the hymn, "The Church is One Foundation."

Lorna Smith

The **Niagara** Presbyterial had a good turnout at the June 2006 picnic at the Miller farm in Fenwick. People who attended enjoyed a silly, sun-hat fashion show.

We celebrated Joan Weaver, a member of the Stamford, Drummond Hill, and Chippawa Group, Niagara Falls, who designed the logo used for the 132nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, which was held in St. Catharines in June. Joan also painted the banner that hung at the Worship Service and at the Sederunts of the Assembly.

The fall rally and potluck lunch took place in September 2006 at Kirk-on-the-Hill, Fonthill. Geoff Johnston, from Dunnville, ON, spoke of his recent trip to El Salvador.

Participants of the "silly, sun-hat fashion show" during Niagara Presbyterial's June Picnic at the Miller Farm on June 14, 2006.

On November 26, 2006, Moderator Wilma Welsh spoke at a church service which was part of an ongoing celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Chippewa Church. The Niagara Falls group hosted a lunch after the service.

The 56th annual meeting of the Presbyterial was held in St. Catharines at Scottlea Church on January 24, 2007. The theme was "Water." The

Some members of Superior Presbyterial with the banner they made from the "Towards a World Without AIDS" mission study.
Susan McLennan writes: "We entitled our banner 'Hands Across the Water' and we hope we suffer no copyright infringement hassles from the Beatles.
The Presbyterial of Superior presented the banner to Arlene Onuoha at their Synodical meeting in April.

Rev. Martin Wehrmann conducted worship and Communion service. Stephen Allen, Justice Ministries, spoke on how water is a sacred commodity and of KAIROS, which reflects an ecumenical expression of faith. The Rev. Anne Yee Hibbs, led a water-themed bible study.

Annabelle Ovens

On March 22, the **Sarnia** WMS held their annual meeting at St. Andrew's in Wyoming. The meeting was chaired by President Joan Wagner. Reports were read by each secretary, moved, and seconded. Martha Ebert gave the Financial Report. Our Mission objective has been set at $22,000 for 2007. Marion Perrie led a bible study about the Sabbath.

The Rev. Sarah Kim, WMS Executive Director, brought greetings from the National Level. She told about upcoming Mission Exposure Trips to India in January 2008 and to Eastern Europe in the fall of 2008.

The Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs spoke to us on the theme "Sabbath Moments, Made by God for Us." Sabbath moments are time spent in an intentional way for rest and nourishment for the soul. Some suggestions were: have silent time before prayer; keeping a prayer journal; imagining the scripture characters and interacting with them; lifting up your arms in prayer; doing the labyrinth; doing breath prayers where you slow your breathing and repeat the lines slowly with each breath; quiet moments with nature; and retreats.

The Rev. Ena Van Zoeren named those we have lost in the last year. A flower was presented for each person. She led us in prayer.

Beverly Cassel

Local

About 18 years ago, the minister of Central Presbyterian Church in **Cambridge**, ON, the church secretary, and the building superintendent decided

to set aside Wednesday mornings as a special time for people to drop in for a cup of coffee, tea, and a chat.

Around the same time, we had a request from Joe Reed, overseas staff in Central America, for knitted blankets to be sent to Nicaragua. We combined the two and a group of women began knitting and crocheting…and we are still at it. One woman is over 90 years of age. All but one of the rest of us are over 80!

After we lost our "way" of sending our articles to Nicaragua, we knit a variety of articles and sent them to various developing countries through Canadian Food for Children and anyone we knew who was travelling to a Mission destination.

When Miriam and David Barrie from Central Church began their Mission trips to Malawi, we sent sweaters, vests, baby caps, and blankets with them.

Through the years, someone dubbed us "The Wednesday Morning Wonders." The name has more or less stuck. The ladies of The Wednesday Morning Wonders don't just focus on sending their knitted wares overseas. They are always willing to knit items that can be used locally. Many knee-shawls have gone to nursing homes. Numerous hats and mitts have been donated to Out of the Cold, and we have donated mittens to a local school.

If you are interested in obtaining at pattern for a Baby's Knitted Shirt, please contact Lyanne at Central Presbyterian Church: 519-623-1080.

Marjorie Souder

continued on page 46

Members of "The Wednesday Morning Wonders" and some of their many knitted goods.

On April 29, members of the Tolmie Afternoon WMS of Port Elgin, ON celebrated both Mission Awareness Sunday and their 120th anniversary.

back row: Jane Wofe, Femmie Schwauss
front row: Marilyn Scott, Jessie Kiernan, Noreen Introcaso, Jean Fleming, Angelia Burkinshaw, Eula Beckford absent Christine Welsh & Leslie James

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

PAST PRESIDENT
Margaret McGillivray
243 Martha Street
Goderich, ON N7A 3B4

PRESIDENT
Druse Bryan
68–13th Street
Roxboro, QC H8Y 1L7

VICE PRESIDENT
Joan Smith
62 Francis Street
Port Hope, ON L1A 1K4

SECRETARY
Susan McLennan
635 Grey Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 2E4

TREASURER
Wilma Welsh
451 Scottsdale Drive
Guelph, ON N1G 2W6

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE SECRETARY
Betty Siverns
#306–5419–201A Street
Langley, BC V3A 1S7

MEMBERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO
Marg Befus
6223 Dalton Drive NW
Calgary, AB T3A 1E1

Eunice Bisset
R.R. #4
Goderich, ON N7A 3Y1

Catherine Blatch
P.O. Box 171
25 Quabbin Road
Mallorytown, ON K0E 1R0

June Campbell
24 Thorncrest Road
Barrie, ON L4N 3P9

Erlma Haldenby
412 Ross Street, Apt. 1
Lucknow, ON N0G 2H0

Joan Hilliard
118 Harry Street
Renfrew, ON K7V 3C7

Nancy Miller
785 Kilman Road, R.R. #3
Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0

Alyth Mutart
Box 312
Woodville, ON K0M 2T0

Marina Onclin
313–934 Heritage View
Saskatoon, SK S7H 5R9

Cathy Reid
5318 Spruce Avenue
Burlington, ON L7L 1N5

Marie Schandlen
4084 Wainman Line, R.R. #2
Orillia, ON L3V 6H2

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS (Synodical Presidents)
Ina Borger
309 Lamont Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB R3P 0G2

Dawn Flint
4819 Nordegg Cres. NW
Calgary, AB T2K 2M3

Carolyn Jones*
22 Bridgenorth Crescent
Etobicoke, ON M9V 2M3

Lois Klempa
155 Chemin du Lac Louise N.,
R.R. #6
Wentworth, QC J8H 3W8

Dineke Kraay
519 Tobin Crescent
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4N7

Pauline Lindsay
42573 Water Tower Line,
RR #6
St. Thomas, ON N5P 3T1

Kay Mori
644 Munro Street
Kamloops, BC V2C 3E6

* Synodical Representative in place of president

Life and Mission Agency
Rick Fee
General Secretary
Life and Mission Agency
50 Wynford Drive
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Anna Cook
Helen Oakes
Joan Smith

STAFF
Executive Director
Sarah Kim

Program & Marketing
Co-ordinator
Alexis McKeown

Editor, *Glad Tidings*
Sonya Henderson

Manager, The Book Room
Susan Clarke

Book Room Resource
Consultant
Tricia Browne

Administrative Assistant &
Circulation Manager
Katherine Allen

Financial Officer (part-time)
Mary Taylor

Forward in Faith

The Women's Missionary Society continues to keep Mission alive around the world. At the annual Council Meeting in May at Crieff Hills the following grants were approved:

1. Funding was provided for four applicants who attended the Princeton Forum for Youth Ministry this past May.
2. A grant of $10,000 to support the Lay Theological Education Program at Presbyterian College in Montreal.
3. A grant was provided for Mr. I-bi Chuan for two years (2007–2008). Mr Chuan is an aboriginal student who graduated last year from YuShan Theological Seminary in Taiwan. It is his plan to study for a Masters of Divinity at Vancouver School of Theology.
4. A special grant was provided to assist underprivileged campers to attend Camp d'action biblique.
5. $5,000 was made available for TamKang Middle School in Tamsui, Taiwan from the special gift account for 2007. The money will be given toward the construction of the new boys' dormitory.

Your continued support of the WMS makes it possible for these programs to proceed. Some of the grants are made possible through special legacies provided by members of the WMS. Your support of mission can live on if you remember the Women's Missionary Society in your will.

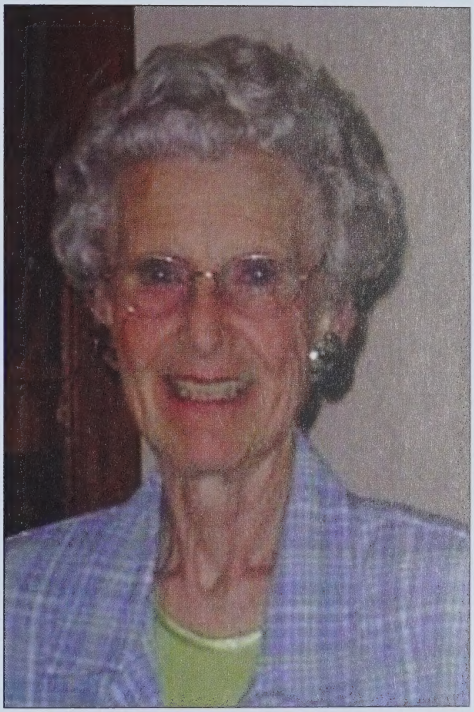
Wilma Welsh, Treasurer

Ruth Song, Wilma Welsh, Margaret McGillivray, Louise Gamble, Jean MacDonald, and Marlene Cribar.

I-bi Chuan, his wife May, and their baby daughter

In Memoriam

Katherine "Kay" McGarvie Remus
February 7, 1934–February 13, 2007



Kay Remus has truly lived out the purpose of the Women's Missionary Society. She responded to the love of God, even from her hospital room in the last few weeks of her life. She welcomed all with a smile, a genuine interest, treats, and words of praise to God for the many blessings of her life.

Kay lived first in Milton. As a young bride, she moved to Paisley, and then on to Walkerton with her husband Carl and children, Kathy and Kent. She was surrounded by love when she passed peacefully on to be with her Master. *A Celebration of Life* was held on March 11 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Walkerton. Kay is remembered for her vitality and for her manner that encouraged and inspired people toward fairness and service of others. She is greatly missed by family and many friends.

While working beside friends in the Women's Missionary Society, Kay touched hearts and entertained many…both with tales of escapades and with generous portions of her time and good food! She was keenly interested both in local and world mission. When WMS members and Mission Staff travelled to Bruce/Grey, Kay hosted them with open arms. She gave many faithful years of service at Westminster Church, Paisley and later in Knox Church, Walkerton. Kay served on WMS Council, was a lifetime member of the WMS, and served as President of the Synodical of Southwestern Ontario from 1979 to 1983. Kay also worked on Interchurch Council and on the Ewart Board.

As a woman of prayer, service, and fellowship, Kay often referenced Psalm 46:10: *"Be still and know that I am God."* She was equipped bountifully by our Lord and what delightful gifts she gave to all!

In the Society
continued from page 42

Left to right, Salome, played by Ruth Wright, Martha, Karen Hamilton, and Martha's sister, Mary, portrayed by Judy Ste. Marie.

The congregation of St. Timothy's, **Ajax** was treated to an Easter Drama, as various participants enacted the "Out of the Ordinary" worship service from the March/April 2007 *Glad Tidings*. The drama was presented on Easter Sunday in place of the sermon. Participants donned simple costumes to portray characters from the scriptures.

Pharisee, played by David Learoyd, Pilate (centre), portrayed by Les Deering, with Centurion portrayed by Norm Terry at St. Timothy's, Ajax, Ontario

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

At the beginning of May, I attended the awards banquet of the Canadian Church Press (CCP). As each publication received its award, my thoughts focused on how the printed word, quality art work, and message are appreciated. Publishing church magazines and newspapers is a form of outreach as it provides information on the mission of the various churches represented at the CCP.

In the same way, *Glad Tidings* is used by readers and groups as a form of outreach to provide information on the work and drive of the Women's Missionary Society. You can promote this outreach by purchasing a second subscription as a gift for someone you know when you renew your subscription for 2008.

Please note: *Glad Tidings*' annual subscription rate will increase to $13.00 beginning in January, 2008. This small increase will help offset some of the increasing costs of publication.

Hope for a new generation

You can help!

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr. Toronto ON M3C 1J7
pwsd@presbyterian.ca www.presbyterian.ca
tel: 416-411-1111 or 1-800-619-7301

IN REMEMBRANCE

Catherine Smythe
St. Timothy's, Ajax, ON

Mrs. Eunice Torangeau
St. Andrew's, Arnprior, ON

Janette Maule
East Burlington, Burlington, ON

Susan Corner
Knox, Calgary, AB

Mrs. Margaret McPhee
St. Andrew's, Hillsburgh, ON

Catherine Grainger
Knox, Horning Mills, ON

Effie Dewar
New St. James, London, ON

Anne Stewart
St. Andrews, Mississauga, ON

Catherine Rice
First, North Pelham, ON

Eileen Wylie
St. Andrew's, Perth, ON

Mrs. Helen Hammond
First Presbyterian, Port Colborne, ON

Mrs. Jean Storie
Lochwinnoch, Renfrew, ON

Gladys Grummett
Knox, Sheffield, ON

Jacqueline (Summers) Kellestine
Scottlea, St. Catharines, ON

Muriel Finnie
Ruth Strohm
St. Marys, St. Marys, ON

Donelda MacKinnon
Knox, Tiverton, ON

Catharine Wilson
St. Andrew's, Wingham, ON

It's live.

www.presbyterian.ca

Entering an exciting new era of online ministry.

More accessable. **More informative.** **More interactive.** **More possibilities**

PM40013283 R9517

Glad Tidings

September/October 2007

Contents

Features

4 **Education for All the World's Children** . . . . . *Sonya Henderson*

9 **Seasons** . . . . . *Dorothy A. Knight*

12 **Taiwan Journals** . . . . .

22 **Focus on...Taiwan** . . . . .

25 **Giving Thanks for Education** . . . . . *Rev. Lynda Reid*

37 **Who & Where** . . . . .

39 **Jesus the Christ—a puzzle** . . . . . *Jim Phillips*

Regulars

3 **Editorial, Introducing Druse Bryan** . . . . .

30 **Mission in Action** . . . . . *Ian Shaw, Paul McLean . . . Marion Barclay-MacKay and Donald W. MacKay*

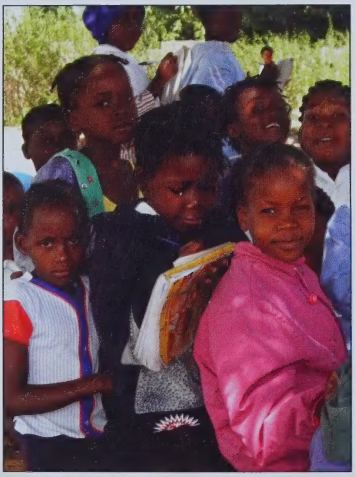
40 **In the Society** . . . . .

45 **Forward in Faith** . . . . . *Wilma Welsh*

46 **Renewal Form** . . . . .

47 **Circulation News** . . . . . *Katherine Allen*

47 **In Remembrance** . . . . .



Cover Photo: Global Campaign for Education, Mozambique

Glad Tidings

September/October 2007
Volume 83, No. 5

EDITOR
SONYA HENDERSON
DESIGN
ALEXIS McKEOWN
CIRCULATION MANAGER
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to the circulation department at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7. Phone (416) 441-1111. Fax (416) 441-2825. E-mail Editorial shenderson@presbyterian.ca. Circulation kallen@presbyterian.ca. Publications mail registration number 09517. ISSN: 00170720.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

Canada

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

Subscription rate $12.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $2.00. WMS members should send their subscriptions through their group *Glad Tidings* Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from *Glad Tidings*. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to *Glad Tidings*.

Glad Tidings reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

Glad Tidings challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

Glad Tidings through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GladTidings provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

Introducing Druse Bryan

My involvement with the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) began in the mid 70s. In fact, my involvement with The Presbyterian Church in Canada began only when I emigrated from Scotland with my husband, where we had both been raised in the Methodist church. Over the years I have worn many hats at Presbyterial, Synodical, and Council Executive levels.

In the wider church, I served on various committees of the Life & Mission Agency, reviewed the Regional Staff model, and served on Synodical committees.

My other long-time commitment has been to Girl Guides of Canada where I have held local, provincial, and national positions. My strong belief, instilled by my parents, in encouraging girls and women to attain their full potential has led to an ongoing involvement in the Montreal Council of Women, the Provincial Council of Women of Quebec, and the National Council of Women of Canada.

In my local congregation, Westminster in Pierrefonds, QC, our Women's Fellowship closed at the end of 2002. However, the women continue to meet and spearhead much of the local mission work within the congregation. I attribute my strong mission conscience to the continuing educational component that I have been exposed to through my membership in the WMS.

I have been influenced by many wonderful people along the way. My three sisters and I were encouraged to reach our potential by my parents, who were both teachers and staunch pillars of the Methodist Church in Scotland. I have been inspired by the many committed Christian women in the WMS and the wider church, as well as the women and men with whom I have worked to advocate and try to right some of the ills of society. However, my involvement in all these endeavours would not have been possible without the continued support of my best friend and husband, Charles. We met at the University in Glasgow, emigrated to Canada right after our marriage, settled in the Montreal area, and raised three strong-minded daughters.

As I take on the challenge of the presidency of the Society, I look forward to meeting with the women who continue to carry out the great commission of "Go and Tell"—both here in Canada, and in our partner churches.

Education for All the World's

Sonya Henderson

Education—and children's access to education—is important to me. Last year, I attended Teacher's College and I'm proud to now be a full-fledged teacher.

Working as editor of Glad Tidings *has given me a new appreciation of the Women's Missionary Society's (WMS) shared value of education. The 'In the Society' column is full of reports of Society members' interest in learning as they participate in meetings, information sessions, and workshops. I have also become familiar with the various projects funded by the WMS here in Canada and around the world. I am increasingly aware that many of these projects are school- and educationally-based.*

September is when we gear up for "back to school." Across North America, it is simply assumed that all of our children and youth will be off to school. Unfortunately, this assumption is not correct, nor is it the case for millions of children around the world. Educating ourselves on the state of access to education around the world enables us to be advocates for Education for All the World's Children.

Megan Haggarty leans forward as she tells me the story of Harjeet, a blind boy she met while working in India. "He attended the state school because he had to. His parents couldn't afford to send him to a private institution. Harjeet didn't learn anything because the staff at the state school had no resources or training on how to accommodate his needs; they thought he was incapable of learning."

Unfortunately, Harjeet's story is a common one for children around the world. Not only do children face the barrier of inadequate education, but some children don't have the opportunity to go to school at all.

"What many people don't realize is that education is a basic human right and fundamental to the fight for human dignity and freedom. For millions of children and adults, that right is violated

everyday," states Ms. Haggarty, of the Canadian Campaign for Education.

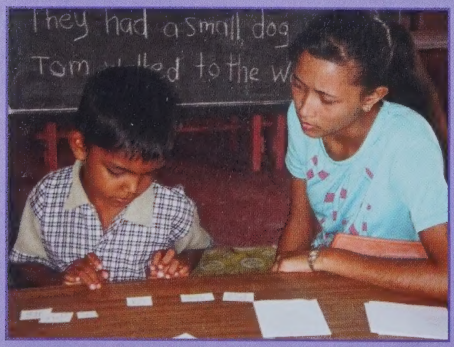
According to UNICEF, more than 80 million primary school-age children are not in school. Three-quarters of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia. Looking at the numbers, one quickly notices a significant gender discrepancy —for every 100 boys out of school, there are 117 girls who are also out of school. (www.unicef.org)

The Canadian Campaign for Education cites studies around the world to help provide some insight as to why these millions of primary school-age children are not in school.

- *Poverty* is the most prevalent reason why a child might not go to school. There are often costs associated with attending school (uniforms, school fees, supplies) and the family must choose between meeting their basic needs and education. Other families may need the children to stay at home to help with labour, and many children in Sub-Saharan Africa live in rural areas where it's too far to get to school.
- Many schools are crowded and understaffed and the *poor quality of education* affects the students' abilities to learn. Some teachers have little or no training while others may have been trained decades before, with no professional development opportunities since.

In our parish of Upper Corentyne we are trying to address the needs of children by providing after-school reading programs for the last 1½ yrs. Two adults in each of two churches have been trained to teach beginning readers using phonics. They have classes two days after school that are free. These programs are partly funded by International Ministries through a fund set up called Guyana Book Fund. This is a mission project of two congregations and has done much to revitalize the sense of mission and service in the community that all churches are called to. It is making a difference in the lives of the approximately 40 children who attend and in the lives of the teachers who are just ordinary housewives who have been empowered to teach and serve. (I oversee these reading programs as a part of my work here in Guyana).

~Linda Shaw, Overseas Staff, Guyana



- In many countries, *illness and death* affect a child's opportunities to go to school. In countries where many people are dying from AIDS or TB, more and more children need to stay home and take care of the sick or their younger siblings.
- *Safety* is a barrier for some children. Unstable social conditions such as conflict and war make it more dangerous for children to get to school. Children are at risk for sexual abuse or coercion into military service.

At the Canadian Global Campaign for Education office, Megan Haggarty outlines Canada's commitment to a unified global campaign to work towards ensuring that people around the world have access to quality education.

Ms. Haggarty admits that before the Global Campaign, grass-roots organizations, NGOs, and faith-based organizations were the main providers of education for children in need. "These organizations, undoubtedly, make an important difference in people's lives," she states. But most of these organizations were working at the individual school or institution level.

What was needed was a larger group with a coordinated approach and political weight to put pressure on governments to change policies regarding education and funding to schools. To that end, The Global Campaign for Education was founded in 1999 and brought together civil society organizations, NGOs, teacher unions, and child rights activists. According to their web site: "The Global Campaign for Education promotes education as a basic human right, and mobilizes public pressure on governments and the international community to fulfill their promises to provide free, compulsory public basic education for all people; in particular for children, women, and all disadvantaged, deprived sections of society."

At the World Conference on Education for All in Dakar, Senegal in April 2000, a project entitled "Education for All" was agreed to by 185 world governments. The Global Campaign for Education outlines the following main calls:

- On governments, to involve citizens' groups, teachers, and communities in developing concrete plans of action for delivering and sustaining free, good quality public education for all;
- On governments, to abolish fees and charges for public primary education, and to increase their own spending on adult, early childhood, primary and basic education, with priority investments in schools and teachers serving the most disadvantaged groups;
- On the World Bank and rich Northern countries, to increase

"Being in the middle of a poverty area brings many more challenges for post secondary education than being brought up in a middle income area. Much energy is spent in just meeting the everyday needs of clothing, housing, and food. Personal safety which we take for granted living in the suburbs is a big issue for the citizen's living in the area where we have our two locations. It's hard to think about your child's future if you are struggling daily with their safety."

~Warren Whittaker, director, Flora House, Winnipeg, MB

aid and debt relief for basic education, and fund a Global Initiative to back national plans with speedy, coordinated and predictable delivery of the additional resources needed;

- On civil society organizations, to hold their own governments and international institutions accountable for upholding the right to education, and delivering on the Education for All goals. (www.campaignforeducation.org)

Meeting these demands is no small task. Because of the interconnected nature of factors that lead to children not receiving an adequate education, The Global Campaign for Education works closely with other international aid organizations, such as Oxfam and UNICEF.

Ms. Haggarty admits that progress is slow—but there is progress. About six years ago, there were 100 million children out of school and 900 million adults who were illiterate. The number has decreased to 80 million children who are out of school and 880 million illiterate adults. The numbers are staggering, but the decline is encouraging. With statistics in the millions, it is easy to lose track of the individual stories of the value of receiving a quality education.

"I recently returned to India for a visit and was pleased to run into Harjeet," Ms. Haggerty reports. "He was elated and he told me that his family had found support for him to attend a special school with the resources and teacher training for special education. He had just graduated from grade 12!"

Harjeet's life was changed by having access to accessible education. He went from someone who was considered stupid to a literate and educated individual. "Millions of parents, teachers, and children around the world are calling on their governments to provide free, good quality, basic education for all the world's children. They are part of the Global Campaign for Education; we add our voice to their call." (Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel, April 2002.)

The migrating geese are calling to me, their melancholy honking heralding autumn in the cycle of the seasons. Their straggly Vs cut across the sky. I glory in the wildness of their sound.

The sunshine has developed a new quality, a gentle glow, striking the flowers and grass at a more oblique angle, setting the salvia aflame. The mornings are cool and crisp, with an earthy smell, like that of a newly turned furrow. Frost comes and the garden is reduced to blackened stalks. Winter follows and covers it with drifts of swirling white, dotted with the sprinklings of seeds from the bird

feeders. Chickadees, nuthatches, and finches come and go. After what seems an eternity, the first signs of spring appear: tiny shoots that become tulips, daffodils, and snowdrops. The glory of spring sprouts free from the icy confines of winter. Then golden summer suddenly bursts forth: the sunflowers glow with their golden smiles, the echinacea entices butterflies, and cornflowers bob in the breezes. This is the cycle of life in the garden.

But where am I, I wonder, in the seasons of life? Spring is a faint memory. Early summer too—the fond recall of friends with whom I laughed and cried; reminiscences of the joys and triumphs we shared; and pictures in photo albums that tell of a youthful beauty I once had. Early summer is bittersweet for I remember wrong roads taken, and regretful unkind acts. No matter, for there is no changing the past and my early summer is clearly just a memory.

Then there was mid-summer. Oh, but those were wonderful days, seeing the world anew through the eyes of my babies, my young children. That was the beginning of the ongoing adventure of watching them blossom, from the beautiful buds of babyhood, to opening blooms, and finally to the glorious flowers they are today, in the full glory of their young adulthood. My mid-summer is only a memory, but what a beautiful golden memory!

Could it be yet late summer for me? Certainly there are some flaws to the blossom: age spots, gray hairs, and skin that seems in need of ironing. The temperatures are more moderate. The bloom is still full, but with a new languor about it. Energies declining and the petals slightly blousy. Still, I would like to linger in late summer and enjoy its fullness, its richness.

Perhaps I am now in early autumn. My bloom has faded: this, the mirror tells me each morning. Are the frosts

of age just a short time away? I feel a new urgency to enjoy the kiss of the sun, a regret when I must be inside on a beautiful day. Every lovely day lost is like a cherished possession gone. Even on the days of drizzle, I sense the rain blessing the soil, knowing that my garden thirsts for nourishment and is blessed by it. Summer thunderstorms are much more than a spoiling of plans and picnics. They are a magnificent display of power beyond our control. Snow storms have a grandeur I love to watch, as they blow with their wild fierceness across our valley, piling up the snow, creating curvaceous drifts in my garden that remind me of the dresses of elegant ladies in times gone by. Life is not so busy. I think of Robert Frost's poem, "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening," since I now have time to watch the valley fill with snow. Whatever the weather does, I accept it as belonging to the season, the cycles of the earth, much as I have learned to accept the flaws of both myself and others, and focus on the finer points. I think I am entering the mellowness of early autumn. My journey has brought losses and regrets, but I choose to focus on the gains, the blessings. Along with the tears there has been laughter, joy, and contentment. The years have made me a kinder, gentler person, with perhaps a smidgeon of wisdom.

I do not want to think of the storms of winter, of the final season of my life. I can embrace those of the real season. I have a warm, cozy parka and wonderful warm hiking boots that grip the ground. My Nordic walking poles give me stability in ice and snow. But what blasts will strike me in the winter of my life? I take a special vitamin pill each day hoping to ward off macular degeneration. I swallow another pill to deal with my rising cholesterol, then calcium and vitamin D for my thinning bones. I exercise, trying to keep my pulse in the training range; I stretch, I work on to building core strength and maintaining balance. I do puzzles to hold a hex sign to Alzheimer's disease. I am aware of the perils of aging. I know what lies ahead is either a slow dwindling, or a catastrophic event.

Yet now each day is to be cherished. Outside my window, the sun shines golden on the garden. One blue jay is telegraphing others in the thickets down near the river. The wild geese are calling to me. Why would I sit and look at a computer screen? You will find me out walking in the valley.

Dorothy Knight is a graduate of Ewart College and Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing. She will soon retire from a career spent mostly in community nursing, first as a VON, and currently as a CCAC case manager.

She and her husband, Peter Fischer, left Toronto for the pleasures of living in Stratford, ON, three years ago and haven't looked back. Her hobbies are gardening, reading, writing, hiking, Nordic walking, and rollerblading.

Taiwan Journals

From Wednesday, April 4 to Sunday, April 15, a group of seven women travelled on a Women's Missionary Society (WMS) exposure tour to Taiwan. WMS President Margaret McGillivray and Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) Wilma Welsh were part of the group. Participants not only got to experience the culture and history of this country but were able to witness first hand the outcome of more than 100 years of mission work of the PCC and the WMS, as well as some of the present mission work done in partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT).

The following excerpts are taken from the participants' travel journals.

Wednesday, April 4

Our first full day in Taiwan started at the head office of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) in Taipei. We were greeted warmly by the General Secretary, the Rev. Andrew T.C. Chang, and the staff. Following breakfast, we toured the facilities at the PCT, and shared a devotional time together.

> I believe that we are sharing ideas and learning effective ways of bringing people into the Christian Church.

In 1978, the PCT engaged in an extensive evangelism program known as the "Ten Plus One Movement." Its aim was to increase the number of communicant members so that in ten years its membership would double. The PCT did not reach that goal, but it succeeded in adding 80 churches and 40,000 members.

In the afternoon, we travelled to Aletheia University where we enjoyed a short musical presentation on the magnificent Chapel organ that has 3240 pipes.

We also visited the Tam Kang High School where we met the students and staff, and were treated to a presentation by a beautiful girl's choir. While touring the grounds, we stopped to place flowers at the graves of Dr. George Lesley MacKay, members of his family and other missionaries.

> My first impression of this beautiful little country is that it has been able to incorporate the very old with the new and modern, and still maintain its heritage and culture.

Thursday, April 5

Today was a National Holiday called "Tomb Sweeping Day." During this holiday, most Taiwanese spend time cleaning and maintaining their family tomb site. We visited the Peace Memorial Park which was dedicated to the thousands of Taiwanese leaders and youth who lost their lives on February 28, 1947 when the Nationalist Government tried to maintain control of the country.

The second stop on our walking tour was the Chiang Kai-shek (CKS) Memorial, a national memorial dedicated to Chiang Kai-shek, former President of the Republic of China. The grounds were beautiful, and the memorial was impressive. We also visited the National Palace Museum, which was busy with many families enjoying an outing together on this day.

We shared a most interesting dinner with David and Chi-Chi Geddes and their children Alex and Nicolas at Tang Kung Bar-B-Q, a Mongolian buffet restaurant, where you cook your own dinner on the "hot pot" found on the tables.

Friday, April 6

We returned to the office of the PCT for the Good Friday Communion worship service. During the service, we followed two

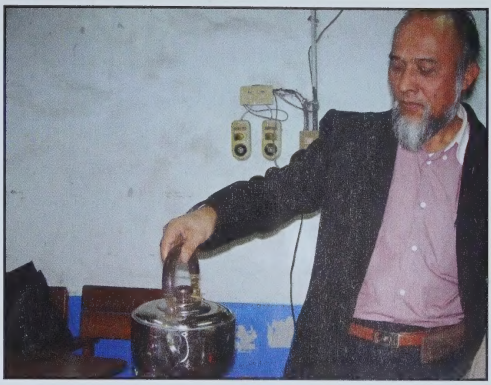
of the male staff who carried a wooden cross through the building. We stopped on each floor for scripture readings and prayers. Although the language was foreign to us, we knew the words Jesus said from the cross and it was a meaningful, inspirational experience. In the evening, we visited East Gate Presbyterian Church. There, we learned of their active mission and ministry to children and adults, and attended their Good Friday service. Our translator, Joe Lin, had excellent English and was quite a character. The church serves a congregation of 350 people and has a large women's choir. They have a summer camp for over 200 children and provide programs for the parents as well. The congregation produces their own resources, holds weekend camps throughout the year, has seven active bible study groups, and gives assistance to less financially stable churches (i.e., Hakka tribe churches).

Following the worship service, a woman expressed her thanks for our presence and the support of the PCC. She gave each of us a decoratively wrapped pineapple cake to take home to Canada. (The cake was delicious; I shared it with various people when I returned home!)

Saturday, April 7

In the morning, we packed our bags for a three-day excursion to Hualien. Three of us flew and the rest caught the 7:48 a.m. train for the 3½ hour ride. At Hualien, we toured the TarokoGorge, a huge and impressive marble canyon. We also visited the Chi-Oan Memorial Church and saw the cave where the congregation secretly worshipped during the Japanese occupation.

At the Bunun congregation, we met with the female pastor Ibu Tanapima and some church members. Ibu is part of an excellent team ministry, with her husband as associate pastor. She was ordained before him because he had been in the army and did not study for the ministry until he retired.



Sunday, April 8

What a beautiful Easter morning in the incredibly lush and misty mountains of Taiwan! The rooster outside our home-stay woke us up with his morning call.

After a wonderful outdoor breakfast and fellowship with the members of the congregation, the church P.A. system began to call villagers to Sunday service. The service was beautiful. The youth band sang in Hakka, Taiwanese, and English. We even sang Jesus Christ is Risen Today (my favorite!).

At the banquet lunch, we were peppered with questions as to why North Americans have blue eyes and blond hair in pictures, but none of us looked this way. After lunch, we were treated to a local Sunday tradition of an ice cream cone at a Sugar and Ice Cream Centre which creates jobs in the local area. Other employment initiatives in the area include small shops, road-side kiosks, and a white water rafting centre.

Later, we travelled to Fataan, a very large and active Amis Church. It is sometimes referred to as the Vatican of Taiwan and there are many buildings and housing programs. We received a gracious meal, and heard more of the history of the area and the church.

I am deeply impressed by what the women's organization does in the different presbyteries. While they stress Bible Studies, devotions, and regular attendance of their monthly group meetings, the women also find time to reach out in the community. They help the poor, the lonely, and the homeless. In various ways they try to strengthen family life. Women are encouraged to become more educated. Supporting the wives of the pastors is another priority. Although the PCT has been ordaining women since the middle of the last century, female ministers are in the minority and their role as a minister has not been fully accepted.

There is great poverty within the community and the church focuses on serving the community and its needs as well as on educating their membership in Christian living through Bible study and prayer.

After the presentations, I really enjoyed the fun time we had of singing and dancing together.

> I learned that I can worship in any Christian Church in the world, and feel God's presence whether I understand the language or not.

Monday, April 9

After breakfast, we attended the Women's Dialogue held at Yu-Shan Theological College and Seminary.

The College was built by volunteer labour—a true labour of love. The cross in the chapel is made from the timber of the original buildings. At the conference, Hannah Song gave an apt presentation on hope and encouragement. The Rev. Mei-hui Chen Lai, the 13th female ordained minister of the PCT, informed us on her work of raising funds for the building program of the school. She invited us to come in 2009 to celebrate the new building. The Rev. Tanapima, who visited Canada last fall, introduced our group and Margaret gave a presentation on the work of the WMS.

In the afternoon, we toured Lintian, a centre of art and sculpture. On our return, we visited a fish farm, where they raise clams and eels. The mountains are home to many streams of fresh water to feed the farms. Everything here is seen as a gift from God.

After supper, we shared in fellowship with the students of the various tribes. Each group entertained us through song or dance. It was a marvelous night!

Tuesday, April 10

It is hard to believe but we are already in our second week! At 7:00 a.m. we were ready for our flight back to Taipei, all dressed up to

meet President Chen of Taiwan. After going through security, we were ushered into the gorgeous Heritage Room of Taiwan in the Presidential Office. A seating plan had been arranged and tea, served in exquisitely decorated china, was waiting.

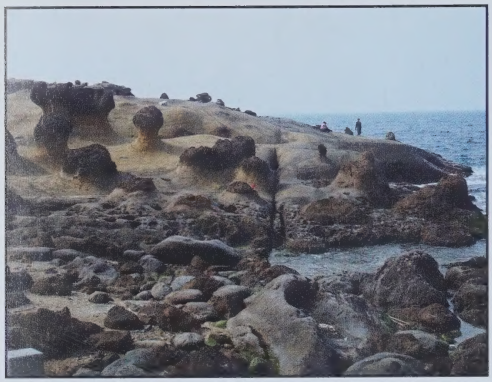
After the introductions, Wilma Welsh had a long conversation with the President. Taiwan is not a member of the UN, nor is the country included in the WHO. The President raised those issues and asked for Canada's support. They also spoke of the situation of aboriginal peoples in both Canada and Taiwan. President Chen expressed his thanks for the contribution made by the PCC to Taiwan.

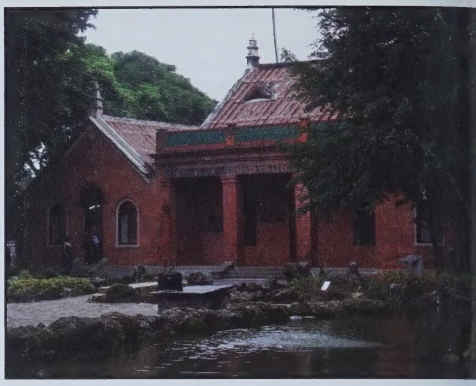
In the afternoon, we registered for the 52nd General Assembly of the PCT which was being held at the McKay hospital. The moving opening worship service included a gorgeous choir, recorder music, and an impressive use of video and liturgical dance.

After a very elegant dinner, we went back to the meeting hall for the voting of the new moderator, vice-moderator, secretary, and vice-secretary. Transparency in the vote was clearly important and emphasized. Votes were counted in full view while ecumenical guests addressed the Assembly.

The voting procedures were interrupted by a visit from the Vice-President of Taiwan, who brought greetings on behalf of the Taiwanese government. She expressed her thanks for what the PCT has meant to Taiwan. "You stood with those who suffered; you suffered as a church and despite all that, you have been a strong force for change. As a denomination you have contributed so much to the educational and health systems of Taiwan," she said.

Along with many Presbyterian Churches the world over, the PCT shares the symbol of the burning bush with the words "It burned but was not consumed."





Wednesday, April 11

Another full and exciting day in Taipei! This morning we met with women from local PCT churches and presbyteries for an interesting and special session of fellowship and sharing of our various missions.

In the afternoon, we joined other ecumenical guests on a bus trip to Yehliu GeoPark on the North coast. The rain finally stopped, the sun was out, and the scenic route to the park was awesome! The Geology Park is a unique place full of different rock formations. Wind, sun, rain, sea waves, and the strong northeast monsoon have eroded the rocks into a variety of shapes. We saw some of the 180 mushroom rocks and candle rocks with their uniquely shaped "wicks." The guide pointed out "Queen's Head," the most famous of all the rock formations.

We then visited the Taiwan Theological College and Seminary, located in a beautiful natural setting just outside Taipei. Dr. George Leslie Mackay, the first missionary from the PCC, to Taiwan, who gave his whole life to this mission field, founded this school in 1872.

It was a long day and I was happy when it was time to walk back to the hotel. Some members of our group still had the energy to visit the "Night Market," a happening apparently not to be missed when visiting Taiwan. Realizing that I had to face a wake-up call at six in the morning, I, regretfully, let this opportunity pass.

Thursday, April 12

On the 2nd day of GA, the business meeting session began after morning devotions. One of the very important overtures was #11: Approve "A Declaration of

The highlight for me was meeting the Taiwanese people who are very hospitable, kind, and gentle. They are deeply committed and dedicated to the success of the PCT.

Partnership between Men and Women." In summary, the overture was seeking for gender equality in the church. This overture has been presented three times before and was the fourth reading. Unfortunately, it did not pass. It was a big disappointment for women in the PCT, especially because this year, the GA theme was based on women.

After the business, GA moved into the theme session of the meeting. A worship service was led by the women's group, and concluded with songs and dances in which delegates and visitors were invited to join. It was touching and showed a tremendous amount of courage from the women's group. Despite the defeat of the overture, they still carried on.

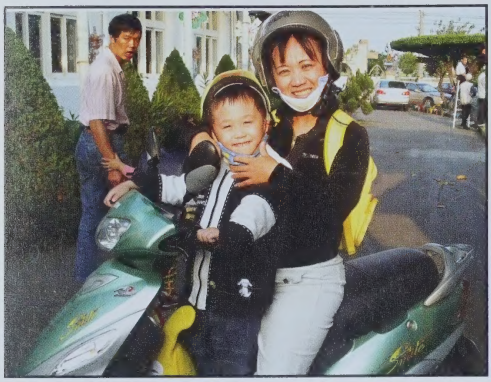
The two guest women moderators at GA, the right Rev. Pamela Tankersley from the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand and Wilma Welsh, addressed the court.

We had a big lunch hosted by the women's group and then travelled south by bus to the Presbyterian Bible College in Hsinchu where Louise Gamble works. There, we saw a presentation on the college and toured the campus. After supper, we travelled to Changhua where we stayed for the next three days.

Friday, April 13

This morning, we visited Changhua Christian hospital where Joy Randall worked. The hospital was very busy, but the waiting time was short. The hospital had only been open for two hours, but they had already seen 650 patients! We were given special Chinese herbal patches for our aches and pains from the Chinese Medicine Department.

After lunch, we travelled south to Lu-Kang Presbyterian Church. Lu-Kang is an old sea port and is traditionally Buddhist and Taoist with over 100 Temples. Despite these challenges, the church membership has increased from 50 to about 500 in the last 15 years. They share the gospel through a successful Nursery School and Day Care Centre with over 250 children. The Centre has wonderful programs and teachers, and also something that is very rare in Taiwan—



a beautiful yard in which children can run and play. The Church also acts as a catalyst for town preservation and revitalisation. They promote tourism and employment through cycle rickshaws, a human-powered vehicle for hire.

The importance of exposure trips is to show people in other churches that we care and share the same goals. It also enables people in Canada to see how our mission funds are used, and the gratitude of our overseas partners.

Saturday, April 14

At Eng-Hok Presbyterian Church in Changhua, we shared in a "Mission Dialogue" with some pastors, and Women's Presbytery group members and presidents. I was impressed with how far some of the women had travelled and the number of groups across the districts. Their goal is "to spread the Gospel and the joy they have." Many have come to know the Lord because of their efforts.

The woman who spoke on behalf of the female pastors told us that only 200 of the 1200 pastors in the PCT are female. She hopes that one day, the number will be equal between male and female.

After a delicious lunch, we travelled to visit Tek-Tng Presbyterian Church, a rural mission church that started as a thatched roof structure in 1932. When Pastor Chen arrived in 1988, there were seven members. Nineteen years later, it is a lovely church with over 100 members. This growth is due to the congregation's dedication to recognize and fulfill community needs. The church now runs the "Sun Flower" school which boasts a computer lab, a handcraft factory, a centre for training school drop-outs, a library, and a children's after-school program.

That evening, the Rev. Peter Chin-Chai Wang from Vancouver invited us to join his family 'farewell' feast of freshly caught and spit-roasted

wild boar. The feast was to 'celebrate' the happy memories of the house his father built 45 years ago. The city had confiscated the entire land of the Wang village and tore down the houses. His father's farm and house was the last one standing. The following week the city was going to destroy it to build apartment buildings. We were privileged to be included in the occasion.

Sunday, April 15

On our last morning in Taiwan, we worshipped at Eng-Hok Presbyterian Church. There are approximately 200 members and about one third stay regularly for Bible Study and lunch. Pastor David said that in the last three years, they had baptized 50 adults and 10 children.

In the afternoon, we went on a sight-seeing tour. We visited a beautiful park where we saw the statues of the "Laughing Budda," and a Confucius temple built in 1726. It was a special day and we saw a Tao parade—in which the gods were taken for an outing. We also saw a funeral parade where all the trucks were covered with paper flowers. Pastor David and his wife, Joy, treated us to a lovely meal in a restaurant in which the chef served his award-winning soup that takes two days to prepare and cook.

We bade farewell to Lillian, Rev. Ni-Ling Lin our constant guide and friend, boarded the bus, and were off to the airport for the *long* trip home.

Journal entries were written by Marlene Cribar, Doreen Dath, Jean MacDonald, Dineke Kraay, Ruth Song, and Sheila Paterson

The entire experience was somewhat overwhelming but I found it stimulating. I want to share my experience with as many people as possible.

Focus on...Taiwan

Facts

Population:	23,036,087 (July 2006 est.)
Capital:	Taipei
Land Use:	arable land: 24% other: 75% (2001)
Area:	32,260 sq. km.
People:	Taiwanese (including Hakka) 84% Chinese 14% Aboriginal 2%
Languages:	Mandarin Chinese (official), Taiwanese (Minority), Hakka dialects
Monetary Unit:	new Taiwan dollar (TWD)
Literacy:	high (90–95%)

A Brief History

In 1895, military defeat forced China to cede Taiwan to Japan. Taiwan reverted to Chinese control after World War II. Following the Communist victory in China in 1949, 2 million Nationalists fled to Taiwan and established a government using the 1946 constitution drawn up for all of China. The past decade has seen an influx of roughly 300,000 migrant workers. Since 1949, Taiwan has experienced rapid economic growth and it now has one of the highest standards of living in Asia. Meanwhile, the Nationalist government (continuing to claim in its constitution to be sovereign over China, Mongolia, Tibet, and Taiwan) has become increasingly isolated diplomatically, as most countries have transferred their recognition to the People's Republic of China as being the actual government of China. Taiwan is thus isolated from the community of world nations.

Religion

"Folk Religion" (i.e., a mixture of Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Ancestor worship) 93%; Christian 4.5%; Other 2.5%

Environment

Taiwan has a tropical climate in the south and a more temperate climate in the north (the Tropic of Cancer divides the island in half). Temperatures range from 10°C in the winter to 35°C in the summer. Monsoon rains fall in the spring while tropical storms or typhoons occur in June through August. Taiwan's environmental concerns include air pollution, water pollution from industrial emissions, raw sewage, contamination of drinking water supplies, deforestation and soil erosion, trade in endangered species, and low-level radioactive waste disposal.

Economy

Taiwan has a dynamic capitalist economy. Some large, government-owned banks and industrial firms are being privatized. Exports have provided the primary impetus for industrialization. Agriculture contributes less than 2% to GDP, down from 32% in 1952. More and more Taiwanese business people are setting up factories in China.

Politics

Taiwan was under Japanese rule from 1895, then reverted to Chinese rule in 1945. February 28, 1947, or "2-2-8" is remembered by Taiwanese people as the start of several weeks of popular protests followed by violent suppression by the Nationalist Chinese government and the deaths of over 20,000 Taiwanese people, including distinguished members of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. After the fall of China to the Communists in 1949, Taiwan became the refuge of the Nationalist Chinese government, which claimed to represent all China. This led to international diplomatic isolation and internal political polarization between the mainlanders and many of the indigenous Taiwanese on the issue of continuing as part of greater China or as an independent nation. Taiwan was, in effect, a mainlander-dominated one-party military dictatorship until the 1987 elections. It is now a multi-party democracy. The possibility of Taiwan being recognized as a separate nation-state has heightened China's military and diplomatic pressures on the island (e.g., China has over 800 missiles aimed at Taiwan). The future status of Taiwan in the United Nations and related organizations such as the World Health Organization remains an unresolved diplomatic 'hot potato.'

Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) in Taiwan

The PCC has worked in Taiwan since 1972 when George Leslie Mackay of Oxford County, ON began 29 years of fruitful evangelistic and medical missionary service. His medical work resulted in Mackay Memorial Hospital. He opened

Oxford College, from which Tam Kang High School, Taiwan Theological College, and Aletheia University have evolved.

Murray Garvin is working as an English teacher at the Yu Shan Bible Institute where the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan trains most of its aboriginal church leaders.

Louise Gamble has recently returned to Taiwan to teach conversational English, English writing, thesis preparation, and theological English at The Presbyterian Bible College.

The Rev. Paul McLean is currently working with a team of 10 Hakka ministers and elders to translate the Old Testament and to make minor revisions on their translation of the New Testament & Psalms (1993) and Proverbs (1995) for Today's Taiwan Hakka Version of the Bible.

Challenges for Prayer

The elections in 2000 resulted in a Taiwanese majority government that openly spoke of possible independence. The great hostility of China to any change in the present ambiguous international status of the government could lead to war. Pray for wisdom and restraint for all Taiwanese, Chinese, and international leaders involved.

Bunan (aboriginal) Church

The lack of pastors is serious, but slowly improving. Many rural congregations in Taiwan are without pastors, the critical issue being low levels of giving in churches. There are over 33 seminaries and Bible schools, some with international acclaim. Pray for staff and students, and for relevant, spiritual training to be provided.

Pray for our Overseas Staff in Taiwan that they be provided with energy, imagination, and faith for their work.

From Operation World CD-ROM, Copyright ©2001 Patrick Johnstone
CIA Factbook: http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/gt.html

Giving Thanks for Education

The Rev. Lynda Reid

Notes for the Leader:

Ask a child or teenager the following questions:

1. Why do you go to school?
2. What does it mean for you to get an education?

Ask a school teacher, university professor, and a church school teacher why they teach.

One person may read all the scripture texts.

Five people may read different parts of the meditation. Each reader should prepare a brief prayer as directed after each segment.

All hymns are from the *Book of Praise 1997*.

Leader 1:

Call to Worship

One: I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

All: Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

One: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
God's greatness is unsearchable.

**All: One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

(Psalm 145:1–4, NRSV)

Hymn: #333 I sing the almighty power of God

Prayer

All: Creator God, for the beauty of your world around us—we give you thanks.

For the rich and fertile soil that produces wheat, corn, vegetables, and fruit—we give you thanks.

For water that nourishes the earth and feeds your creatures—we give you thanks.

For the one who plants the seed, feeds the cattle, bakes the bread, and prepares the meal—we give you thanks.

Generous God, it is your desire that everyone is well nourished, has adequate housing, and is clothed. Forgive us when we hinder your perfect plan. May we strive to be a people who care about the needs of others and work towards the goal of justice for all your children. We pray in Jesus name. Amen

Hymn: #641 One more step along the world I go, verse 1

Leader 2

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statues.
With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.
I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.
(Psalm 119:12–14, NRSV)

Read a quote from a child or teen OR use the following quote:

"I see my friends at school and meet new people. School is interesting and boring. Did you know a jellyfish is 90% water and has no bones? I need to know even boring things for my career."

~Emily, age 9 from Oshawa, ON

We, in Canada, have taken our right to receive as much education as we desired or can afford for granted. We dutifully pay school taxes and most people regret every day of a strike by school teachers. Christian education, especially for children and youth, is valued in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. As disciples of Christ, it is our desire to give children and youth as many learning opportunities as possible so that they may grow mentally and spiritually into the likeness of Jesus.

Prayer

Give thanks for the exuberance of children and teens wanting to learn about their world. Pray that Canadian schools will be safe and happy places for them to learn.

Hymn: #641 One more step along the world I go, verse 2

Leader 3

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statues, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. (Psalm 119:33–35, NRSV)

"Education continues to be considered a privilege to the children in both Taiwan and India. If a family has funding for only one child to be educated, it is always the boy child that has the opportunity."

In the 1900s the WMS responded to requests to send teachers for girl children. The Tamsui Girls School (now TamKang High School) in Taiwan and the Jobat Christian School in India continue to this day.

"The children in Jobat need to learn about computers, otherwise they will sit on the edge of the world and let it go by. Education is the key to development in the underprivileged world."

~Wilma Welsh visited both Jobat and TamKang schools in 2006/07.

Prayer

Give thanks for the faithfulness of WMS groups who have financially supported these schools. Pray that soon girls and boys will receive equal opportunity in the education system.

Hymn: # 641 One more step along the world I go, verse 3

Leader 4

"During math class, we copy the question the teacher has written on the board. Our teacher is the only one with a book. I don't see why I have to learn math. I want to learn how to weave and sew like Albertina, but Juan says you never know what you might need to know one day."

~'Alicia' from Partners: Meeting Maya Friends in Guatemala, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, p. 20

Children in Guatemala may go to school until they are 10 years old, but education is only free up to grade 6. Families must buy books, all school supplies, and uniforms. Most families can't afford these things. Our church supports the Fransisco Coll School located in the Guatemala City dump. Schools such as these are not supported by the state. The children who attend the Fransisco Coll School are excited to learn. Many excel and continue on to high schools in Guatemala City. They have big dreams, but need help in fulfilling them.

Prayer

Pray that one day every country in the world will make educating the children a priority.

Hymn: #641 One more step along the world I go, verse 4

Leader 5

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. (Deuteronomy 6:6–7, NRSV)

> "School means that I can learn more about math. Getting an education means that I can get a job one day as a teacher."
>
> *~Zach, aged 7, Flora House, Winnipeg, MB*

Zach has a dream and a goal for his life. But he faces many challenges. His school is often not a safe place to be. His parents can't give him parental support as they are struggling just to meet everyday needs. Zach's sister Stephanie (8 years old) wants to get an education so that she can become a person who improves the run-down houses in her neighbourhood. Flora House offers skill-based programs for children and teens so that they have the confidence to make their own way.

Flora House director Warren Whittaker states: "…we need more teachers and schools that support native traditional methods of education." These resources will help Zach learn, appreciate his roots, and fulfill his dream of becoming a teacher.

Prayer

Pray that schools and educational systems will find creativity in teaching so that all children may learn in a way that is natural for them.

Hymn: #641 One more step along the world I go, verse 5

Leader 1

Your teachings are wonderful; I obey them with all my heart. The explanation of your teachings gives light and brings wisdom to the ignorant.

(Psalm 119:129–130, *Good News*)

Read a quote from a teacher OR use the following quote:

I am a teacher at heart, and there are moments in the classroom when

I can hardly hold the joy. When my students and I discover uncharted territory to explore, when the pathway out of a thicket opens up before us, when our experience is illumined by the lightning-life of the mind—then teaching is the finest work I know.

But at other moments, the classroom is so lifeless or painful or confused and I am so powerless to do anything about it that my claim to be a teacher seems a transparent sham. Then the enemy is everywhere: in those students from some alien planet, in that subject I thought I knew, and in the personal pathology that keeps me earning my living this way. What a fool I was to imagine that I had mastered this occult art harder to divine than tea leaves and impossible for mortals to do even passably well!

~Parker J. Palmer, The Courage to Teach, p. 1

Teachers influence young minds and lives. Dedication to their calling allows them to shape future leaders for society. Church teachers and leaders not only give the invaluable gift of faith to children and youth, but also helps raise them to be caring adults.

Prayer

Give thanks for the teachers that you know. Pray for wisdom and patience.

The Offering

God's goodness is seen in the abundance all around us. Let us give a portion of our wealth for use in the church and the world.

Prayer

Gracious God, we offer but a token of all you have given us. Bless these simple gifts so that they may bring healing and hope to those in need. May this offering be used as Jesus Christ would use it. Amen

Hymn: # 802 For the fruits of all creation

Benedition

God, the Creator, sustain us
Christ, the Teacher, guide us
God, the Holy Spirit, give us joy.

The Rev. Lynda Reid is Education Consultant for the Synod/Synodical of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda. She has been a Christian educator in the church for the past 38 years.

Ian Shaw
Skeldon Manse, Guyana

Leaving Ain't Easy

Our Canadian holiday is starting to wind down rapidly. Actually, time passes by at the same pace as usual—it's just that at the end of a vacation, it seems to go faster! The above title will have truth for us, but it's three Guyanese young adults that 'inspired' the title. As some of you may know, there is a Youth in Mission (YIM) team coming to Guyana this August. YIM is a great ministry program. Our daughter Kendra made a YIM trip to Eastern Europe a couple of summers ago and it was a tremendous learning experience. Last year, coordinator Reuben St. Louis broached the possibility of making this YIM trip to Guyana an exchange. He arranged for one of our Presbyterian camps (Camp Geddie) to add two Guyanese to their staff in July and arranged for funding support.

We then started to develop an application and selection process in order to choose the two candidates. In spite of the significant financial commitment and the short time for advertising, we had 11 applicants for the two positions. It was difficult, but two candidates were chosen along with two alternates. We were all very excited. The applicants were of high quality and the potential of shared learning from the Geddie experience was exciting. This part was completed by late March.

The two participants then had to secure funding and apply for visitor visas to Canada. Reuben arranged for an official invitation/explanation letter from The Presbyterian Church in Canada which became an important part of the required Visa documentation. He also sent letters for our alternates—just in case. By late April, the first participant had her materials ready and submitted them. Then we waited. And waited. It took about three weeks. Then disappointment. Her visa application was rejected. The rejection slip indicated that the invitation/explanation letter had either not been read or had been completely ignored. Phone calls seeking a review proved unhelpful and mostly frustrating (voice mail, no answers, or incorrect information). The alternate applicants were then contacted. One of them was no longer able to participate. The other was told to get his information together while we waited to see if an appeal would be allowed.

No appeal. So the alternate submitted his request and Linda and I departed for Canada. All further assistance would be through cyberspace. Three days after our arrival in Canada, we heard from the other original participant. She,

too, had been denied a visa. She met all the apparent criteria, but the official simply stated words to the effect: 'I'm not convinced that you'll come back, so visa is denied.' Bureaucratic power in the hands of an individual who has no clear accountability for actions is not a pretty sight.

We were then forced to make a decision. Our lone remaining potential participant would not hear about his visa until two days before he needed to leave. Should we buy the plane ticket and trust he would get the visa? Should we wait and risk not getting a seat or paying a premium price? Faith—or maybe frugality—won out. This applicant had been to Canada before, so we didn't anticipate any problems. However, we were aware that we were confident that our last person was a 'shoo-in.' Linda purchased a plane ticket online. And we waited. Waiting is part of life in Guyana.

Yeah! Permission granted! Toronto and Halifax contact information was sent to the successful applicant, "Mr. D." And we smiled. It was not all that we had planned for, but one person would have a valuable shared learning experience.

But ah, the adventure…not only governments have bureaucrats! At 7:30 a.m.—our time (8:30 in Guyana and Toronto, 6:30 in Edmonton) the phone rings. I suspect it's Kendra calling early to discuss connecting later that day. It's Reuben. The airline won't let Mr. D. on the plane. The problem is that someone else (Linda) had purchased his ticket. Mr. D. had Reuben's home phone number and called to request that we fax Linda's I.D., credit card, and a note saying that all is above board to the airline. It's 7:30 in the morning. The plane departs in 90 minutes and Mr. D. is still at the check out (in?). Where would you go?

Keystone Kops here we go! I called one of the Westwood church staff and she agreed to loan us her key to the church. I get to the church and turn on the copier and find that all the codes are the same as when I left. (Le plus ça change…) The copier, however, isn't working well and the copy of the I.D. and credit card are faint. I called the Administrative Assistant and she agreed to come right away to see if she could fix the copier. I attempted to fax to one of the Guyana numbers provided by Mr. D. to Reuben but there is no answer. When the Administrative Assistant arrived, it was realized that a repair man must be called to fix the copier. I learn, though, that a fax machine can photocopy! (OK all you smarties who knew that, quit gloating.) I made a good copy and tried to fax to the first number again but now, it's busy. I tried the second number given by Mr. D. but there is no answer. I called Mr. D.'s cell phone and informed him that the fax numbers were not working. He got a 3rd one and I told him to stay on the line while I tried the fax again (fortunately the church has two lines!). Page 1 goes

through. Page 2, with the copy of the picture takes forever to transmit, but it too, goes through. Mr. D. informs me they had been received. We arranged to call back in 20 minutes and when we did, Mr. D. answered as he was passing through security. All is well! It's now 8:30 a.m. Thirty minutes to departure. Time for a coffee!

* Later that day, when following up with Reuben, we learned the following about those early morning adventures:

Reuben received Mr. D.'s initial call at about 7:00 a.m. Eastern time. He didn't know our number in Winnipeg, so he called Church Offices. Our Canadian boss, Ron, was in! He didn't have our number in Winnipeg, but he had the number of Linda's brother in Edmonton as he's our emergency contact. Reuben called just as Linda's brother was about to step into the shower (6:15 a.m. Mountain Time). Although he thinks it's a prank at first, he gives Reuben our number, and at 7:30 a.m. Central time, the above adventure begins. So because of some weird (to my mind) bureaucratic policy 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, 6, 7 different people get rousted about and interrupted from their early morning routines. It ain't easy to leave!

P.S. Mr. D. arrived safely in Toronto and Halifax as scheduled. After a couple of days of orientation, he was hoping to enjoy an afternoon of sailing in the Atlantic. Definitely worth the anxiety in the end!

Paul McLean
Taiwan

February 2007

In April 2004, Paul McLean was reappointed to serve as a missionary/ Bible translator in partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) and the Bible Society in Taiwan (BST).

Nearly four million Hakka people live in Taiwan. Yet after 140 years of Christian mission only 2–3 in 1000 are Christians. A major reason has been the lack of a Hakka Bible. Thankfully, the Hakka New Testament plus Psalms was published in 1993 and the book of Proverbs in 1995. (I was part of the translation team from 1985 to 1995.) Since then, a team of 10 Hakka ministers and elders have prepared a draft translation of the other 37 books in the Old Testament. My role is to check the quality of this draft translation verse-by-verse in relation to the original Hebrew Bible, then help the team correct and finalize the translation before the BST can publish it in good clear Hakka.

At home in Toronto over three-month intervals, I'm at the computer using specialized Bible software to prepare a revised translation for my next month-long, face-to-face consultation with the team. In 2006, we worked together in Taiwan during March, July, and November. We made hundreds of small yet significant improvements on our translation from Deuteronomy to 2 Samuel. Each chapter

of scripture has its own particular challenges for accurately translating the meaning of Hebrew words and phrases into clear modern Hakka. For example, we had to decide how best to translate such things as "fall down" or "bow down" to worship God or to show respect for a person of higher rank; male/female "slaves" versus male/female "servants"; "to anoint" someone with oil to become a prophet, priest or king; the right kind of "stone" David used to slay Goliath (the Hakka word in a previous draft sounded like a "boulder"); figurative descriptions of God as a "rock", but what kind of "rock" in Hakka; idioms like "walk in the ways of the Lord"; polite language in phrases such as "my lord the king" or "your servant"; how to distinguish in written Hakka between "he", "she", or "it"—all pronounced <gee> in spoken Hakka; how to write names for biblical women using Hakka-Chinese characters that not only sound like their corresponding Hebrew names but also resemble a woman's name in Hakka (in traditional Mandarin Bibles the names of many women look like the names of men); and many more translation issues. The Hakka team estimates it will take us another 3–4 years to correct and improve the entire draft, in order to finalize the whole Old Testament and make small revisions in the New Testament. Bible translation requires much study, discipline, and prayer. We are also inspired by the enthusiasm and dedication of two Hakka elders on our team, who are both 87-year-old retired school teachers.

I also visit and preach at Hakka churches throughout the island during my month-long trips to Taiwan. A Hakka Bible study and prayer fellowship that meets in downtown Taipei continues to grow. With God's help, they hope to start a Hakka Presbyterian church in the near future. In 2006, the 15th self-supporting Hakka congregation was established. As a result, Hakka congregations have asked the General Assembly to form the first ever Hakka Presbytery in the PCT. Hakka churches hope this will enable them to focus more effectively on evangelism, Christian education, music, cultural concerns, and social issues—all from the perspective of Hakka Christians who grew up in Taiwan's minority Hakka culture. Hakka churches deeply appreciate the support and encouragement shown them by the PCC through this missionary and other means.

On the national Church level, the PCT is initiating a 10-year plan called *Identify, Offer Yourself, and Grow*, which encourages community-based holistic mission in churches around

the island. The PCT continues its prophetic witness for peace in a regional context where every day China points over 800 missiles at Taiwan threatening her 23 million people if they should ever choose "Taiwan independence" from China. The PCT heartily invites us all in the PCC to pray and support them in seeking peace with justice in a worldwide context where Taiwan is still—regrettably—excluded from the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

I thank God for the on-going vision and support of the PCC, PCT, and BST for inviting me to share with our partners in this foundational task of translating the whole Bible for Hakka churches in Taiwan. I also want to thank congregations and friends in the Women's Missionary Society who are making it possible for Hakka people to read, study, and apply all of God's Word in their own language so they can be more effective witnesses for Jesus Christ as they share the good news in Hakka of *Song-ti ke thung-siak* —God's compassionate love.

The Rev. Marion Barclay-MacKay
The Rev. Dr. Donald W. MacKay
Ghana

March arrived with a great party—the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of Ghana which is celebrated on March 6. We decided to remain in Nsaba and join the local people in their celebration. This basically included hundreds of school children from toddlers up and a few local market groups in a march past in the open area between the Centre and the Secondary School, the salute being taken by a local politician type and all this watched by a crowd of people. It was hot and one wonders if the wiser people watching the National events on TV from their cooler parlors had the better idea. The Jubilee sparked a lot of pride in the nation and its achievements as the first sub-Saharan county to become independent. There were a lot of special T-shirts, ribbons, and materials to sew special anniversary dresses.

Overseas Staff Birthdays

October
7 - Robynne Erica Howard, India
20 - Lezlie Cowley Allison, Cameroon
27 - David Josiah Allison, Cameroon

November
12 - Rosalie Howard, India

December
15 - Rick Allen, Kenya
18 - Andrew Paul Allison, Cameroon
24 - Agwu David Onuoha, Nigeria
27 - Mary Gorombey, Romania
31 - Sheila McKelvie, Pakistan

January
5 - Aron Csaba Pandy-Szekeres, Hungary
6 - Anna Szabo (Pandy-Szekeres)
10 - David Pandy-Szekeres, Hungary
29 - Donald MacKay, Ghana

We began some of the needed renovations at the Nsaba Lay Training Centre (NLTC). Our little library received new windows, book shelves, paint, carpet, and new tables and chairs. Soon we shall have to look for some additional books appropriate for a lay training centre. Some needed repairs have also been done to our open classroom area. Eventually, a few buckets of paint may change the world. This was all made possible by an Education Grant which we received from some German Churches. Other special gifts will eventually be put towards the next step of renovations but we hope also to focus on some direct help to students and programs that may not otherwise happen. We need to have programs for "renewal days" for already-trained catechists. Another idea we are exploring is some type of training for front-line caretakers —the people who are looking after very small remote congregations, many without much preparation toward that task. There is a definite need for this type of work. We will try some pilot projects, and once again, it needs to be in the local language. We ask for your prayers for wisdom and discernment for this project.

In April we continued our ministry of administration, overseeing repairs, and meeting with carpenters and masons to price the work to be completed. We both had preaching assignments on Good Friday, in Winneba District— Marion in Nyanyanor, and Donald at the main church in Winneba. Now that is a simple task...or it should be. However, three days to the event in Winneba, the local minister informed Donald that the service would include Holy Communion and Baptism. We were the visitors, so we followed instructions. The Winneba service began at 9:00 a.m., so there would hopefully be time to complete everything before noon. When we find that there are 20 people to be baptized, there is a little doubt. The person designated to interpret the sermon was not really skilled in that task. Yet, somehow all things were accomplished. It was not really my idea of what a Good Friday Service should be. Marion's experience was more rewarding. Her interpreter actually read her script beforehand and gave a summary after the English presentation.

When we leave these services, we usually receive a load of fresh fruit and a contribution towards diesel. Holy Saturday found us visiting our Satellite family (the grandchildren as we affectionately call them) and their grandmother in nearby Alugbuchi. A torrential rain storm followed us all the way back to Nsaba. At one place, a tree dropped across the road right in front of us. Thank God there was no damage or people injured. On Easter Sunday, we worshiped in a small village under some palm branches. It was a very unique way to mark the occasion.

Once a year, each Presbytery holds an annual conference which is the only time for a full meeting of the

Presbytery. It resembles our Canadian Synods, with printed reports, resolutions, and workshops to bring in recommendations to the Presbytery. It is an annual accounting of the Presbytery. The Central Presbytery (where we live) held their conference this year on April 21–24 at Grace Church Winneba. We attended it for part of the time and commuted the 40 km from Nsaba. The Sunday morning worship was a complete 'event'...it lasted four and half hours! On Monday at 7:00 a.m., we conducted the morning devotion on the assigned theme: "The Universal Sovereignty of Christ." Nothing like a simple theme! Later that day, Donald travelled with the NLTC Director to the neighboring West Akyem to make a presentation on behalf of the Centre. It was a good experience to have shared with the Presbytery brethren in work and prayer.

A week after the jubilee celebration ended, our power outages increased. We now have some 36 hours a week without power. Each power outage comes in 12-hour blocks with a day, then two days between lights out. Thank you, God, for our trusty Generator! So far the petrol for the Generator equals the cost of a normal monthly power bill! It means things like working on a lap top or ironing have to be planned with an eye to when the next power outage will occur. Just another of the challenges to living in West Africa. Sometimes we say "WAWA"—West Africa Wins Again.

Many thanks for your encouraging messages, support, and letters.

Louise Gamble appointed to teach at Presbyterian Bible College in Taiwan

Louise Gamble is a member of the Diaconate and first served with the WMS in the Chinese Church in Montreal. She then transferred to Taiwan, studied Mandarin, and worked primarily with Aboriginal churches in developing Christian education. After returning to Canada, she worked in social work before developing a private practice in psychotherapy in Toronto. As she approaches retirement age, she returned to her first love: working within the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

Louise began teaching at the Presbyterian Bible College (PBC) in September 2001, retired in 2004, and returned again in 2006 with International Ministries. PBC is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and provides undergraduate degrees in Church Music, Christian Service, and Foreign Languages.

Louise states: "I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Foreign Language Department of PBC. I have been teaching an assortment of courses: a variety of conversational English courses, English writing, thesis preparation, and theological English. I enjoy remembering how to hear and speak Mandarin!"

Who & Where

Retired Former Staff Members of the WMS*

Tamiko Corbett
3863 18th Ave. W.
Vancouver, BC V6S 1B4

Dr. Eleanor Knott-Crabtree
503 Ridge Rd.
Meaford, ON N4L 1L9

Agnes Hislop
3039 49 Ave., Unit 106
Red Deer, AB T4N 3V8

Giollo Kelly
1148 Broadview Ave.
Toronto, ON M4K 2S5

Doreen Morrison
Apt. 712 Walton Place
835 Birchmount Rd.
Toronto, ON M1K 5K1

Evelyn Murdoch
1964 Main St. W.
Unit 1107
Hamilton, ON L8S 1J5

Mary Nichol
40 Pearl St., Apt. 215
Smiths Falls, ON
K7A 5B5

May Nutt
5 Shady Golfway
Apt. 216
Toronto, ON M3C 3A5

Diana Wadsworth
33 Inniswood Dr.
Toronto, ON M1R 1E6

Ida White
209 Keays St.
Goderich, ON N7A 3N4

*This list represents staff who worked for the WMS prior to the new pension plan introduced in 1974.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada: Regional Field Staff

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Educational Ministries Co-ordinator
Kathy Ball
5394 Teskey Rd.
Sardis, BC V2R 5P7
ballteam@shaw.ca

Regional Minister
Wayne Stretch
601-1420 Beach Dr.
Victoria, BC V8S 2N8
waynestretch@shaw.ca

ALBERTA
Director of Regional Ministries
Dianne Ollerenshaw
51 Hobart Rd. S.W.
Calgary, AB T2V 3K2
director@synodabnw.ca

SASKATCHEWAN
Regional Staff
Jennifer Bell
925 McKercher Dr.
Saskatoon, SK S7H 4T9
jenbell@sasktel.net

MANITOBA & NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Vacant

SYNOD OF CENTRAL N.E. ONTARIO AND BERMUDA
Congregational Dev. Consultant
John Peter-Smit
688 Munich Circle
Waterloo, ON N2V 2L6
johnpetersmit@gmail.com

Synod Youth Consultant
Colleen Wood
1301 Neilson Rd.
Toronto, ON M1B 3C2
cnobyouth@gmail.com

Synod Education Consultant
Lynda Reid
1301 Neilson Rd.
Toronto, ON M1B 3C2
tksynod@pathcom.com

Synod PYPS Consultant
Frances Sullivan
377 Wilson Dr.

Milton, ON L9T 3E9
consult.pyps@gmail.com

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Area Education Consultant
Anne Yee-Hibbs
Erskine Presbyterian Church
19 Pearl St. N.
Hamilton, ON L8R 2Y6
synodaec@on.aibn.com

Synod Youth Consultant
Spencer Edwards
Erskine Presbyterian Church
19 Pearl St. N.
Hamilton, ON L8R 2Y6
syc@connections-online.ca

SYNOD OF QUEBEC & EASTERN ONTARIO
Area Education Consultant
Anita Mack
285 River St.
St. Lambert, PQ J4P 1E5
anitamack@sympatico.ca

Area Education Consultant
Christine Ball
81 McLennan Way
Ottawa, ON K2L 2T2
christine_ball@rogers.com

THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES
Mission & Education Consultant
Rev. Kenneth Stright
Box 435
Pictou, NS B0K 1H0
kennethstright@yahoo.ca

Camping & Youth Consultant
Audrey Cameron
684 Sherbrooke Rd.,
R.R. #5
New Glasgow, NS
B2H 5C8
a.r.cameron@ns.sympatico.ca

International Ministries

EASTERN EUROPE
Mary Gorombey
Gat utca 29¼,
1095 Budapest, Hungary
mgorombey@rogers.com

Brian Johnston
c/o Protestant Theological Institute
Piata Avram Iancu 13
Cluj-Napoca 3400
Romania
brianjoh2002@yahoo.com

Dr. David & Anna Pandy-Szekeres
3950 Sárospatak,
Hunyadi János u. 128,
Hungary
pszd@hotmail.com

GHANA
Rev. Donald MacKay and Rev. Marion Barclay-MacKay
c/o Rev. Enock Pabby, Director
Nsaba Training Centre
P.O. Box 79
Agona Nsaba, CR, Ghana
revdwm@canada.com or
m.barclay@hotmail.com

GUATEMALA
Denise Van Wissen
Apartado Postal 258,
Quetzaltenango,
Guatemala, Central America,
denisevw@gmail.com

GUYANA
Rev. R. Ian and Linda Shaw
c/o Skeldon Presbyterian Church
East Public Rd.
Corriverton, Guyana
South America
ianandlindashaw@gmail.com

KENYA
Dr. Richard Allen
P.O. Box 1226
Kikuyu 00902
Kenya, East Africa
rallen@africaonline.co.ke

MALAWI
Clara Henderson
428–2001 E. Linglebach Lane
Bloomington, IN 47408
U.S.A.
clahende@indiana.edu

Rev. Glenn and Linda Inglis
c/o Church of Central Africa Presbyterian
Box 413
Blantyre, Malawi

NICARAGUA
Dr. David Villalonga
c/o Asociacion Cristiana de Jovenes de Nicaragua
Belle Horizonte,
Casa No. O-IV-4
Apdo. Postal 6140
Managua, Nicaragua
Central America
dvilla@ibw.com.ni

NIGERIA
Rev. Arlene Onuoha
c/o Presbyterian Church of Nigeria
Box 2635 Aba, Abia State,
Nigeria, West Africa
arleneonuoha@hotmail.com

PAKISTAN
Bill & Sheila McKelvie
P.O. Box 21,
Mirpur Khas 69000,
Sindh, Pakistan,
mckelvie@securenym.net
sheilam@securenym.net

SOUTH KOREA
Rev. Jae Lee
c/o Rev. Kwang-Ci Won,
Chamsil Presbyterian Church,
Seoul, Korea
eugene2222@hotmail.com

TAIWAN
Louise Gamble
Presbyterian Bible College
56 Kao-Feng Rd.
Hsinchu 300, Taiwan
gamble_louise@hotmail.com

Rev. Murray Garvin
YuShan Theological College
28 Chih-nan Rd., Sect. 1
Shou-Feng
Hualien 974, Taiwan
m.garvin@mail.yushanth.org.tw

Rev. Paul McLean
76 Dallimore Circle
Toronto, ON M3C 4C5
paul.mclean@utoronto.ca

Dr. Michael & Carol Tai
163 Chein-kuo S Rd.
Section 1, 3F
Taichung, Taiwan 402, ROC
tai@csmu.edu.tw

Jesus the Christ

Jim Phillips

Find the listed words in the puzzle—up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally.

Jesus – 9 times
the – 3 times
Christ – 7 times

J	T	T	J	C	C	J	C	H	T	C
E	E	T	E	H	H	E	H	H	H	H
S	C	S	S	R	R	S	R	R	E	R
U	H	U	U	I	I	U	I	T	E	I
S	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	H	T	S
J	I	E	H	T	T	E	T	E	S	T
E	S	J	E	S	U	S	T	E	U	E
S	T	T	H	E	C	H	R	I	S	T
U	T	S	I	R	H	C	E	H	E	H
S	J	E	S	U	S	U	S	E	J	E

Synodical

On an overcast day with a couple of inches of snow, 28 ladies gathered at Camp Kannawin for the annual meeting of the **Alberta & NW** Synodical. The Rev. Fiona Wilkinson from St. Andrew's, Olds conducted the worship service and referred to the theme found in Psalm 19: 1, 2, & 4. She spoke of dancing with God and creation, for Jesus is truly Lord of the Dance.

Guest speaker Jill Draper spoke of her PWS&D tour to Malawi last year. It was special because Jill is the daughter-in-law of Marg Bystrom, a faithful WMS member of Central Alberta.

While the grounds were too wet for a walking tour of the camp, the Rev. Helen Smith, Camp Administrator and Director, gave a talking tour and led us in some camp songs.

Ms. Smith conducted a memorable Communion service to close the meeting: "Putting the Body Together." She spoke of when her son received his first communion. When informed that he could eat the bread after it was passed to him, he replied, "No. I'm waiting to put the body of Christ back together." Is this not the purpose of the church, of Christians, and of the WMS?

After being fed spiritually and mentally, tea and goodies refreshed the body for the trip home. The sun had come out, the snow was melting ...it had been an enlightening and inspirational day.

Marg Befus

Members of the Alberta & NW Synodical.

From left to right:The Rev. Helen Smith, President Dawn Flint, Treasurer Millie Freeman, the Rev. Fiona Wilkinson, Secretary Marg Befus, and Jill Draper at the annual meeting of the Alberta & NW Synodical.

The 60th annual meeting and the second Northern Congress of the Synodical of **Central, Northeastern Ontario & Bermuda** was a great success. We were hosted by the Algoma Presbyterial in Sault Ste. Marie, ON from April 19 to 21. The annual meeting was held at St. Paul's Church on Friday, and the congress was held on Friday evening and Saturday at Westminster Church. We were privileged to have Wilma Welsh, the Moderator of the PCC, the Rev. Sarah Kim, WMS Executive Director, and WMS Council President, Margaret McGillivray, participate in the event.

As part of the 60th celebrations, members of the Lindsay Presbyterial created a beautiful banner. The business portions of the meeting included informative reports. Our Synodical historian presented a moving service of remembrance with a special tribute to Patricia Fremlin, Algoma's Presbyterial President, who passed away suddenly on December 2.

A highlight of the congress was participating in three styles of worship —Iona, Taizé, and Sabbath Candlelighting. Guest speaker Wilma Welsh reflected on our Bible study theme of Psalm 46. Nine varied workshops were held, three off site. Many people stayed to worship at one of the three Sault churches on Sunday. Wilma Welsh spoke at Westminster, and Joy Randall was the guest speaker at St. Paul's and Victoria.

The Rev. Lynda Reid and President Joan Smith at the dedication of the new Synodical banner.

All in all, it was a busy and rewarding weekend.

Joy Randall

The annual meeting of the Synodical of **Quebec and Eastern Ontario** was held on May 25–26 in Montreal, QC. The message of the weekend was "Go and preach the gospel. Use words if necessary."

The Rev. Dr. Jim Czegledi spoke on the theme "Sharing your Faith." We are never alone when we share our faith. It's a three-way conversation involving ourselves, the person with whom we are sharing, and God. We must reclaim the message of salvation —it is a gift, freely given, but of inestimable value.

At dinner, Lois Beaton gave a historical review of the WMS and we enjoyed the 60th anniversary cakes.

In the evening address, Mr. Czegledi spoke on the two sacraments of the church—Baptism and Holy

Communion. At baptism each person receives two gifts. The first is faith; the second is at least one gift to equip us to carry out God's work. Communion was led by Mr. Czegledi, Margaret Reynolds, the Rev. Sarah Kim, and Lois Klempa.

On Saturday morning, Anita Mac led a hymn sing and Glengarry Presbyterial led devotions.

Mr. Czegledi continued and led a workshop on Proclaiming Your Faith. We discussed the top reasons why Presbyterians find it hard to talk about their faith and evaluated six styles of outreach.

The Rev. Sarah Kim spoke of the WMS members' commitment and dedication to mission and their desire to fulfill the WMS purpose. After lunch, the Rev. Dr. Barry Mack gave a historical tour of Montreal.

Vivian Young

Presbyterial

Peterborough Presbyterial celebrated their 125th Anniversary on May 16 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope, ON. The theme was "Faithfulness 1882–2007."

The ladies from Bowmanville led opening worship. Synodical President, Joan Smith, shared her experiences of her trip to Guatemala. The Rev. Lynda Reid installed the officers for 2007–2008 and led us in the Communion Service with use of historical Communion tokens. Our lunch time was a special celebration with a cake cut by our president and the previous presidents.

Joy Randall

On Saturday, June 2, the Presbyterial of **Renfrew-Lanark** met at St. Andrew's Church in Perth, ON. Eunice Shrader of Perth welcomed the 25 ladies and led a rousing hymn-sing with her husband Don on keyboard. Judie Ault of Perth led the devotions on 'Water.'

After the business portion of the meeting, the Rev. Marilyn Savage spoke of the mission trip she and ten other members of the congregation took to the Dominican Republic in March. The theme was "Missions Begin and End With Worship." Ms. Savage's account provided other churches in the Presbyterial with the challenge: What can we do? How can we help?

After a delicious potluck lunch, Christine Ball led a Bible

Current Presbyterial President Joan Smith is joined by past presidents Muriel Bell, President Cecilia Morris, Jean Coull, and Holly Hall in cutting the cake.

Study on Isaiah 43:14–21. "Behold I am doing a new thing. God works in unexpected ways." After a few readings and games, the meeting closed with prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Vivian Young

Fifty-four members answered the roll call at the Spring Rally of the **Sarnia** Presbyterial hosted by the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Corunna on May 17. The theme was "Hearers and Doers." A catered lunch was served. Margaret MacDonald gave a book review. A sing song was led by Sheila Deneau and accompanied by Marilyn Shaw.

Alexis McKeown, Program & Marketing Coordinator, was happy to be meeting members of the WMS and brought greetings from church offices in Toronto.

Guest speaker Mary Lou McKay gave a slide presentation on her trip to Guatemala entitled "Focus on Guatemala." She spoke of the women in Guatemala who had been given small loans to start their successful businesses and how this program had made wonderful improvements in their lives and the lives of their families.

Beverly Cassel

Local

The WMS Women from **Tweedsmuir** Memorial Church in Orangeville, ON enjoyed a pot luck luncheon at the home of John and Suzanne Rayburn in June. The Rev. Harvey Self said grace and we enjoyed a wonderful meal in fellowship with our group and guests. This very special gathering was to celebrate the 99th birthday of our dearly loved member, Dorothy Grosart.

Our President, Helen Sinclair, brought in the birthday cake and we sang a hearty and joyful 'Happy Birthday.' Helen spoke of how Dorothy's sense of humour, wisdom, lively intelligence, and knowledge have been, and continue to be, an inspiration to us all. Dorothy constantly keeps us in good spirits with her zest for life. Dorothy was a teacher by profession and became Department Head of Modern Languages. She still speaks French and Spanish fluently. We love Dorothy, and may God continue to bless us all with her presence.

Marilyn Taylor

Seated at the back, from right to left: Joyce Keating, Betty Dobson, Josephine Gordon, Harriet Broeze, Dorothy Grosart, Marilyn Taylor, Helen Sinclair, and Jane Smith. Seated at the front are: Helen Robson and Suzanne Rayburn.

At the 114th Anniversary of Esson Oro WMS on June 6, 2007, Barbara Woodrow received a life membership.

On May 22, the WMS of Knox Crescent Kensington & First Church held a pot luck lunch and meeting to honour its associate members. President Grace Thornley Brown, WMS of Knox, Kensington, Crescent & First Church presents Peggy Wegrich with a Life Membership pin.

Scottlea Presbyterian Church, St. Catharines, along with the WMS hosted an enjoyable mission evening on June 2, 2007 in honour of Pauline Brown.

CORRECTION

In the July/August 2007 issue, there is an error on page 38 in the report of the Annual meeting of the Kingston Presbyterial. The Kingston Presbyterial WMS celebrated their 121st Anniversary on April 14, 2007, not 21st Anniversary.

Forward in Faith

Presbyterial and Synodical Meetings

The Women's Missionary Society (WMS) Presbyterials and Synodical may apply for funding towards special events for their meetings. Annual Presbyterial or Synodical meetings are an opportunity to invite special speakers and/or to hold leadership training events. Grants from the *Louise Reith Fund* make it possible to cover expenses for events such as a talk from overseas staff or someone from your local area, who shares their experiences of mission travel. Louise Reith was a past Executive Director of the WMS and realized the value of providing educational opportunities to members of the Society. In her will, she designated special funds for special events and meetings. Applications and criteria are available to Presbyterials and Synodical through the WMS office in Toronto.

Experiencing Mission First Hand

During the past few years, some WMS members have taken the opportunity to experience mission first hand through mission exposure tours. Local congregations, presbyteries, or synods may also organize mission trips to visit partners of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Limited grants are available to assist individuals who wish to join an exposure group through the Isabella Brown Memorial Fund.

The *Isabella Brown Memorial Fund for Leadership Development* was established by the family of the late Isabella Brown of Manotick and Cardinal, ON. Mrs. Brown served as President of her local group, President of the Presbyterial and Synodical, and led CGIT and children's groups in her local congregation. This fund was established to provide financial assistance for lay people of the Presbyterian Church in accordance with Mrs. Brown's concern for developing leadership in church groups.

WMS sponsored trips include tours to Guatemala in 2006 and Taiwan in 2007. In January 2008, a group will go to the Bhil Field in India. An exposure tour to Eastern Europe is also being planned.

Applications and guidelines for grants are available from the WMS office in Toronto.

Both Louise Reith and Isabella Brown recognized the value of education. They bequeathed gifts to the WMS in order to assist the Society to fulfill its purpose of learning and sharing the Good News.

Wilma Welsh, Treasurer

Changing your name or address?

New subscriber?

Use this form to send a change of address, or to forward a new subscription. If you are moving, please let us know at least six weeks before your move.
(For renewals, contact the *Glad Tidings* Secretary of your local group.)

For change of address

Name: _____

New Address: _____

_____

_____

For change in address attach mailing label here

For new subscribers

Name: _____ **Name of Church:** _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Payment

Subscription rate: $13.00 (including GST) for 2008 (GST registration #107856783)

Amount enclosed $_____ (make cheque payable to *Glad Tidings*)

Credit card number: _____ **Expiry date:** _____

☐ **Visa** ☐ **MasterCard** **Signature** _____

Clip out and forward to: *Glad Tidings* Circulation, 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
Phone: 416-441-1111, ext.326 or 1-800-619-7301 Fax: 416-441-2825
e-mail: kallen@presbyterian.ca

Circulation News

Katherine Allen

It is that time of year again for *Glad Tidings* subscription renewal. When the *Glad Tidings* secretary/contact person for your congregation begins to collect subscriptions in September, you can do the following:

- Have your $13 annual subscription fee ready. In May, Council Executive agreed to increase the subscription to $13. This increase will help offset some of the rising publication costs. A credit card is a convenient way of paying. You simply need to supply your card number, expiry date, type of card, and the amount.
- Check your address to make sure it is correct and complete.
- Purchase a gift subscription for a Sunday School teacher, youth leader, shut-in, a new member of your congregation, etc.

Please return your subscription list by November 1, 2007 to ensure that changes are made before January. If your group has disbanded, we still need to have the list returned for our records. You need not belong to a WMS group to subscribe to *Glad Tidings*—it is for everyone who desires to know more about the mission of the church.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ruth Grant
St. Andrew's, Calgary, AB

Marjorie Kathleen MacKay
St. Andrew's, Carleton Place, ON

Isabella Randall,
St Andrew's, Cobourg, ON

Dorothy Brown
Elleda Laidlaw
Lucknow, Lucknow, ON

Bessie Watkinson
Knox, Midland, ON

Mrs. Anne Smith
St. Andrew's, Saskatoon, SK

Helen McDonald
St. Stephen's, Scarborough, ON

Solveig Hibbons
St. James, Stouffville, ON

Isobel McMillan
Glenview, Toronto, ON

Mrs. Dorothy Bannerman
Weston, Toronto, ON

Hope for the future

PWS&D works with partners overseas to provide support for grandmothers, mothers and other guardians to care for AIDS orphans.

Please help us continue our work.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

50 Wynford Drive,
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 1-800-619-7301
pwsd@presbyterian.ca
www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

PM40013283 R9517

Please report any errors/changes in address

Glad Tidings

November/December 2007

Weathering the Longest Night

Also: Finding Sabbath Despite Christmas Chaos

Contents

Features

Weathering the Longest Night

Cathy Gale

Page 4

From the Heart

Holly Wilson

Page 8

Finding Sabbath

Maureen E. Walter

Page 10

Going Green at Christmas

Janette McIntosh

Page 12

15 **Woman at the Well** . . . . . *L. June Stevenson*

16 **Being Love** . . . . . *Rev. Margaret Mullin*

20 **Listening, Learning, and Building Relationships** . . . . . *Lori Ransom*

23 **In God's Good Time** . . . . . *Sara Deleon*

27 **Introduction to *Making Connections***

30 **Giving More Than Sight to the Blind** . . . . *Zsolt Jari*

Regulars

3 **Editorial**

29 **WMS President's Itinerary**

32 **Mission in Action**

40 **Reviews**

41 **Forward in Faith**

42 **In the Society**

45 **In Memoriam**

46 **Circulation News**

47 **In Remembrance**

Glad Tidings

November/December 2007
Volume 83, No. 6

EDITOR
AMY MacLACHLAN
DESIGN
ALEXIS McKEOWN
CIRCULATION MANAGER
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to the circulation department at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7. Phone (416) 441-1111. Fax (416) 441-2825. E-mail Editorial cwood@presbyterian.ca. Circulation kallen@presbyterian.ca. Publications mail registration number 09517. ISSN: 00170720.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

Canada

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

Subscription rate $12.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $2.00. WMS members should send their subscriptions through their group *Glad Tidings* Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from *Glad Tidings*. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to *Glad Tidings*.

Glad Tidings reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

Glad Tidings challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

Glad Tidings through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GladTidings provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

Amy MacLachlan

Christmas Colours

It's difficult to think about Christmas as I write this on the first day of fall—especially when the sun is still shining, the sky is brilliant blue, and the expansive garden outside my window is green and thriving. But despite the summer-like temperatures, I know it will soon become cloudy, grey and cold, and the whipping winds and falling snow will drive us indoors once more. Life isn't always sunshine and roses. Days of sadness and sorrow sometimes break into our lives, leaching the colour and vibrancy from the everyday, leaving darkness in its wake. Such times are even more distressing when they hit during the Christmas season—something Cathy Gale writes about in our cover story, "Weathering the Longest Night." Cathy not only explores the "dark night of the soul," but explains how churches can play an important role in helping people cope during what should be the happiest time of the year. A special piece by *Glad Tidings*' former editor, Holly Wilson, expands on the "blue Christmas" theme with a personal story of fear, uncertainty, thanksgiving and, ultimately, hope.

Green is the colour of an article by Janette McIntosh. With the explosion of the eco-friendly, environmental, "going green" phenomenon, we couldn't ignore how this new awareness can be applied to the way we celebrate Christmas. I hope Janette's practical tips are a useful starting point to having your own simplified Christmas.

Lastly, you may be wondering why I'm writing from the editor's chair. Well, I was lucky enough to be asked to fill the gap between Sonya Henderson's departure, and the arrival of Colleen Wood in late October. While my responsibilities as staff writer at the *Presbyterian Record* keep me busy, it has been a joy to work on this magazine. I have spoken to several WMS groups over the years, and got to know some of you during WMS Council last spring, and I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. That said, thank you to all current and former *Glad Tidings*/WMS staff who answered my questions, gave advice, and helped me get this issue into your hands.

With every blessing for the holiday season,

Amy

Weathe

ng the LONGEST NIGHT

A special service at Christmas can bring light to the darkness

By Cathy Gale

Summer draws to a close. The tide of sunshine turns and days shorten noticeably and quickly, hastening to the fall equinox even as I write. Daytime shadows lengthen; air cools quickly at night. Winter approaches, and with it the shortest day of the year and its longest night. I grudgingly acknowledge fall's approach and the winter that will follow in due course. In the midst of biting cold, inconvenient snow, and long, dark nights, I've learned to be deliberate about looking for the good.

The rhythm of the seasons has its parallel in our lives. Each one of us, one time or another, experiences something akin to a spiritual winter. Unlike the seasons, we may not see it coming. But it comes—sometimes unendingly it seems—precipitated by any number of things: death of a loved one, loss of a job, compromised physical and/or mental health, perhaps a broken relationship. Events of our lives seem to turn against us, causing us pain, grief, anger, resentment, or any number of other difficult and negative emotions.

Saint John of the Cross was a 16th century Christian mystic who explored the nature of these times of crisis; his writings are summarized in his book of poetry and reflections called *Dark Night of the Soul*. He concluded that out of our experience of dark spiritual times, times associated with a crisis of faith without hope or positive energy, can come an important phase in spiritual growth. He believed the soul who persists, even through pain and deep doubt, enters into a deeper, more faithful relationship with God. His love poem of the same name is a beautiful metaphor for the soul who chooses to place God at the core of her life.

A dark night of the soul comes to many of us who are human and have loved. No matter its root cause, people of faith love deeply…and hurt deeply sometimes to the point of doubt. The pain of loss is great, overwhelming, and numbing. We may question our spiritual foundations, believing ourselves isolated or singled out not only from those around us but, more importantly the God who created us. And we are not alone in such experiences: earlier this year much was made of Mother Theresa's writings that revealed her own doubts and anguish.

Scripture can be a real source of comfort and reassurance for us at these times. We learn that God stays near when we are brokenhearted to heal us and sustain us (Psalms 34:18 and 147:3,6). We read that Jesus understands all too well the pain that love can bring as he weeps for Jerusalem (Luke 19:41). Paul teaches the Romans that the Spirit helps us when we are speechless and empty, that the Spirit intercedes on our behalf (Romans 8:26). What we can understand from passages like these and others is that we are not to expect that life will proceed without trials and tribulations. Rather, we can learn that God is present with us, whenever and however our spirits are tested. God is with each of us during our dark spiritual nights.

The institution of the church began as a means of teaching the nature of God's love to people and ministering to them. What does this mean for us modern day pilgrims? It means the church, living out God's calling, is there for us too in our dark times. It ministers to us, showing its care through prayer and presence, to the best of its abilities. Congregations have people—both clergy and laity—in place for the pastoral care of God's flock. At times of individual or family crisis, this care is invaluable and tangible evidence of the love of God for us.

As individuals of faith in personal relationship with God, we are called to express it as part of the body of Christ. It follows that if the church can minister to hurting people on an individual basis, it can further this ministry in corporate form as an act of outreach.

In the last 20 years or so, many churches have offered worship services specifically for those experiencing significant loss in their lives. Usually held in the Advent or Christmas season, they are typically called Blue Christmas or Longest Night services. The idea of a "Blue Christmas" was made famous by Elvis Presley as he sang about lost love in the late 1950s with a song by the same name. The Longest Night service draws its name from the winter solstice on Dec. 21, when the darkness of nighttime reaches its peak. Both names fit the metaphor of a soul in pain. Interestingly, Dec. 21 is also one of the original Catholic feast days of St. Thomas the Apostle, the disciple who struggled to believe. It seems fitting that this particular disciple could be a special role model for us when we struggle to believe there is hope and a light in our spiritual darkness.

By any name, these services acknowledge that for some of us,

By any name, these services acknowledge that for some of us, the season is filled with more pain than joy, more emptiness than plenty; the tempo and pressure to be merry

heighten our isolation. In such services, one finds a safe and sacred place to recognize grief as a part of our lives and the toll it takes on our spirits. We don't need to feign happiness, and in our darkness we can be shown the light. In an act of corporate worship, the church provides a place for people to gather and realize that despite feelings of isolation they may have, they are not alone. But perhaps most importantly, we can experience the message of God's unconditional love for us—that to us, *for* us, a saviour was born.

Like all services of Christian worship, prayers are offered, scriptures are read, hymns are sung, and there may be a short sermon or meditation. Music is subdued, encouraging an atmosphere of reflection; some churches may offer communion. Many services will include a responsive litany involving the lighting of candles. There may be individual candles lit by worship participants, or the candles of an Advent wreath with colours symbolizing such attributes as loss and grief, memories, courage, hope, and faith. In the centre of it all, as in Christian life, is the Christ candle. At the end, attendees may be given a small token symbolizing a feature of the service: perhaps a scroll of pertinent scripture, a blue stone, or a small ornament. Fellowship opportunities following the service are important, as those who wish can stay and share time with others of this significant community of believers.

Many of us would agree that as each year passes, the secular concept of Christmas becomes ever more commercialized: this year Christmas-themed goods crept into stores before Labour Day in my community. The secular world's vision of Christmas is greatly idealized in false perfection and material abundance: we will be happy, surrounded by loved ones, and Christmas will be perfectly merry. These superficial but very visible trappings wear heavily on those burdened with loss at this time. Providing a Blue Christmas/Longest Night worship service can be an invaluable form of ministry to the increasingly secular community of which a congregation is part. In the dark night of our souls, we are given fresh opportunities for hope through the true message of Christmas: that for those who live in a land of darkness, on them a great light shines.

the season is filled with more pain than joy, more emptiness than plenty

Cathy Gale fits her freelance writing around her calling as an elder at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, Calgary.

Hope Arden Wilson at seven months

From the Heart

By Holly Wilson

It was two years ago at Christmas time that my husband Rick and I received the devastating news that our unborn baby required heart surgery. Painfully, we were also warned that there was a chance the baby's condition could result in a miscarriage. Needless to say, we did not celebrate Christmas that year. Instead, we retreated from the world. Many nights, as we lay together staring at the soft lights of the Christmas tree, our tears mingled and we wondered: Would our baby live?

Five months later, on a bright day in May, our beautiful daughter Hope Arden was born. Thankfully, she did not require surgery immediately and after a week in hospital we were able to bring our precious baby home. For the next five months, we tried to not let worry dominate our lives. One of Hope's greatest gifts to us is her contagious smile and good nature. She is such a sweet soul full of all the goodness that humanity has to offer. How can something so good be seen as anything less than a blessing?

On Oct. 24, 2006, Hope had open heart surgery. That day, we waited for what seemed like an eternity for Hope's surgeon to return to tell us how everything had gone. Amazingly,

everything did go well and after six days in hospital—and all that it entails—we were once again able to bring our baby home.

When Christmas rolled around two months later you might think that we would be on top of the world. Baby's first Christmas—a time to visit relatives and gifts galore! But our Christmas was a quiet one. Fear of infection was a harsh reality for us so we protectively stayed close to home. On Christmas Eve, we bundled Hope up and took her for a long walk in her buggy, and then on Christmas day we spent time enjoying our gifts and later had a small turkey dinner. Besides a brief visit from one of my sisters, it was just the three of us savouring our first Christmas as a family.

It has been a year now since Hope's heart surgery and we are very grateful that she has so bravely recovered from this terrible ordeal. However, sometimes, like when she climbs up the jungle gym smiling in delight at the other children, I can't help but feel a tinge of sadness. Why did this have to happen to our baby girl? But one can drown in questions such as these. The truth is that there are no comforting answers. Only the Creator knows and we are not privy to these mysteries of life. In the meantime, our hope, faith, and the prayers of loved ones have sustained us through the darkest times.

Although the fear of all that we have been through has been slow to recede, as each month passes I see us opening up once more to all that life has to offer. It is impossible to resist Hope's enthusiasm and love of life, and I expect that this Christmas we will most enjoy Hope's delight in all the wonders this magical season has to offer.

Holly Wilson is the former editor of Glad Tidings.

Holly and Hope, 16 months, this past September

Finding Sabbath Despite Christmas Chaos

By Maureen E. Walter

On the late summer afternoon I am writing this, I have to pry myself off the back deck where the warm breezes have lulled me into a snoozy quiet. Sabbath seems an easy concept to embrace here and now.

But to find Sabbath at Christmas? Not so easy any more.

The Christmases of my youth were a pleasure. Sometimes I would wait till the last minute to do my shopping. Out in the hustle of the crowds I would hunt for the five or six items on my list and drag them home, happy to have completed my shopping.

Even then, Christmas for me always started at Christmas Eve service. No matter what hectic events preceded it, that service was magical in its simplicity. Every Christmas evening, a church packed to the rafters with everyone from the neighbourhood would hold up the glass safety lanterns the church gave to all who came. The lights would dim and we would sing Silent Night by the glow of coloured lanterns before streaming out the door—a community of friends and family. No matter what, Christmas always came with that service.

Christmas as a responsible adult is somewhat different. The hectic factor is a hundred times greater. The six items on my list have expanded to 60. In addition to gifts, it is up to me to make sure everyone has suitable clothes for the festivities. Everyone has to have a fancy dress and shoes to go with it! Company is coming. It is not just the big meal itself, but the breakfasts, lunches, and snacks before and afterwards that I have to be ready for. Is all the bedding clean? Are the beds even adequate for the event?

Last Christmas fell on a Sunday. Despite the hectic preparations, I was hoping to find Sabbath in the season. But it wasn't easy. In the middle of my shopping, my money cards stopped working. Several phone calls later I

had reassured the bank that the unusual activity on my account was my own doing and not that of a thief gone wild with my identity.

I went out to get the Christmas turkey. The parking lot was full. I parked two blocks away. I pulled out my little cart and trudged off, content to be crossing chores off my list. Forty minutes later, dragging my heavy cart and still lighter wallet through the pouring rain back to the car, the Christmas spirit seemed further away than usual.

Still I had hopes that I would find Christmas peace at church. We worship in a caring community where I often feel the presence of God among us. But peace at the service was short lived. My four-year-old nephew and two-year-old niece—my pride and joy and delight—were as full of Christmas spirit as any two young people could be. I think it is fair to say that my nephew was more excited about the season than any of the other children in the service. And that is saying a lot—the church was crammed with tiny feet and hands. I decided to take over to allow the toddler's parents a brief respite. It was a bit like trying to contain a nuclear missile. Eventually aunt and nephew retired to the yard, where we ran around in the falling snow hoping for some calm.

Forty minutes later, dragging my heavy cart and still lighter wallet through the pouring rain back to the car, the Christmas spirit seemed further away than usual

We returned to the church with red noses, just in time for the candles. I'd missed the prayers, the hymns, and the sermon. But I might still find the Christmas feeling in the candlelight. Of course, the little ones wanted a candle of their own. My own two girls were supervising closely. Still I hardly breathed. I could not take my eyes off the woman in the pew in front of us, with her long curling hair dangling inches from the toddler's flame. I was too far away to leap in. My daughter tightened her grip on her cousin, who refused to relinquish control of his candle.

And then, there, in the chaos, the toddler excitement, the panic, the tiredness and fear—there it was. Sabbath! God with us! God with me! With my daughter's firm grip keeping the stranger's hair safe, the lights low, the candles flickering, the community singing, Sabbath arrived. And with it came Christmas. Rest and calm spread outwards from my heart, like stillness settling across the waves on a pond. A miracle—like always. A miracle I look for not just this December, but every day. More than any other prayer, I pray that I, that we, that everyone, will feel God's presence with us this Christmas and always.

Rev. Maureen Walter is a minister and a lawyer. She is married to Richard Johnston. They have two daughters and attend Morningside High Park Presbyterian Church in Toronto.

Going Green at Christmas

Reclaiming the season's simple joys

By Janette McIntosh

And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10–12)

Good news of a great joy, indeed! And from such a humble beginning… How wonderful it is that we can remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ every year at Christmas. But how easy it is for many of us to forget and get caught up in the busyness of "getting ready for Christmas" by shopping, baking, cooking, making crafts for a church sale, hosting, and doing more shopping. Some activities are joyous, but why do we have to do and have so much? At what cost?

Many years ago our family started to feel that the ecological cost of celebrating Christmas was getting too high, and we have since found that we are not the only ones taking steps to simplify and reclaim the true joy of Christmas. Jeff and I began by inviting international students for Christmas

dinners and each year since, we seem to be adding new or adopted ideas to our "tradition" like organizing Christmas carolling home visits for elderly church members, playing re-gifting gift exchange games, planting our potted Christmas trees the years our children were born, then buying farmed Christmas trees and donating the money we spent to a local cause, or trying a make-shift Christmas tree with our house plant. We plan quality get-togethers with friends instead of exchanging gifts. Santa Claus only brings one gift for each child and isn't responsible for filling the adults' stockings any more. (We have yet to completely shed Santa's influence!) A few years ago we tried "simplifying" Christmas by travelling to a lodge with friends and family but the goods and foods ended up following us. What we remember most from those few days away is waking up to the magic of a white Christmas morning and experiencing the true joy of Christmas in fellowship with family and friends.

For Christians, Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. However, it seems the commercialization of this holy day has taken over. Because of our needs to consume, people in countries that don't even celebrate Christmas or know the true meaning of Christmas are mass producing and selling us tree ornaments and other Christmas decorations. Don't you find that a little strange? Please, take a moment to think about how you celebrate Christmas. Are your thoughts and actions kind to others and to the Earth? Try slowing down during Advent to re-think and reclaim the true joy of Christmas. Not only will it bring peace to you and your family, but also peace throughout the community and on this Earth. We are all connected in God's Creation.

This Christmas I urge you to keep God's creation in your heart, being mindful of conservation and taking creative steps to simplify your Christmas traditions. It is not difficult. You can start one step at a time by walking more lightly on this planet called Earth.

Consume less: celebrate creatively with conservation in mind

Get creative. Start new traditions. Re-think Christmas traditions and learn about their origins.

Try sending e-cards or make your own.

Hospitality with Heart

Invite someone new to your table. Host an open house and invite your neighbours.

Sponsor a family to your church advent dinner.

Re-think gift-giving: reduce and/or recycle gifts

Think before you buy. Enjoy the gift of sharing some of your treasures. Gifts are meant to come from the heart, not from guilt or expectations.

Inspire others to buy fair trade (that's only if you choose to buy)

There are many hidden costs to the products we buy. If you choose to buy, buy with conscience; buy fair trade.

Sing with joy: go carolling

Organize a carolling group to visit nursing homes, group homes, hospitals, and shelters. Share your joy on the streets.

Take time together

The gift of time with family, friends, and community develops true quality relationships.

Make a special donation

Choose a Presbyterian gift of service and mission (or other special cause) and donate a monetary gift on someone's behalf.

Acts of kindness are gifts too

Give a gift of service. Share your talents. Offer your hand in cooking, cleaning, teaching English, car washing, fixing something, or anything else you can do.

Simplify and reclaim the true joy of Christmas

Simplicity brings clarity to mind, heart, and actions. Consciously re-examine how you celebrate Christmas. Ask yourself: "How is this good for my family, friends, and community? How is this good for the Earth?"

Let us remember Jesus' humble beginnings as written in Luke 2:10–12. Small is beautiful. Simple is best. Simply, reclaim the true joy of Christmas by remembering the Christmas story while giving thanks for God's special gift and God's wonderful creation. For specific ideas for having an Earth-friendly Christmas, visit: www.earth-easy.com/give_sustainchristmas.htm.

May you have a blessed Christmas.

Janette McIntosh lives in Vancouver with her family—Jeff, Keilen, and Kai. She is an elder at West Point Grey Presbyterian Church. Committed to ecosystem health, she is involved in environmental stewardship education and action within the church, ecumenically, and in the wider community.

Woman at the Well

By L. June Stevenson

This I know now ...
I was born in imperfection
Not through fault of anyone or God but
Because I was born human.

This I know now ...
All my life is a journey back to God
Who is at the centre of my being
And who summons me to the journey in faith and trust.

This I know now ...
God is within me, around me, above me, and below me.
God is all encompassing.
Without God in my life, my life means nothing.
God is life and life is God.

This I know now ...
I reached out my hand in hope and awe,
I touched the body of Christ, who knows all that I ever did
And who loves me with a love beyond imagining.
And I am made whole.

By Rev. Margaret Mullin

Note: This service uses the rich tradition of the medicine wheel teachings. In the sacred teachings of Canada's indigenous peoples, the four colours of the medicine wheel represent, among other things, the four nations of people that the Creator placed on this Earth. In our Christian teachings, we learn from a very young age: "Red and Yellow, Black and White, all are precious in God's sight."

Preparation:

Sit in a circle with a small table in the centre of the circle.
Place enough river stones for each participant in a basket on the table.
Tie Yellow, Red, Black, and White ribbons to the handle of the basket.
Place an Advent wreath beside the basket.
Ensure the four candles on the Advent wreath are placed in each direction of the compass—North, East, South, and West. Tie a ribbon to the base of each candle: East (yellow), South (red), West (black), North (white).
Choose one leader and four participants who are willing to read, and have them light one candle each on the wreath.

Call to Worship:

Leader: The good news of Christmas is that God meets us where we are. The colour of our skin, our age, the level of our education, or our economic status are of no concern to the eyes of unconditional LOVE.

Voice 1: God breaks into our hectic pace and makes PEACE known.

Voice 2: God breaks into the midst of our despair and makes HOPE known.

Voice 3: God breaks into the midst of our sadness and makes JOY known.

Voice 4: God breaks into the midst of our bitterness and makes LOVE known.

Leader: God meets us wherever we are and calls us to be LOVE. Let us worship God!

Prayer:

Leader: Creator of us all, hear our prayer.

All: **Amazing God, you confounded this world by coming to us as a human baby.**

Help us to see beyond the baby in the manger to the man that Jesus became. Help us to see beyond the man Jesus to your pure LOVE reaching out to us through him. Help us today and every day to hear your call to be LOVE as we journey through life.

Leader: Oh God of steadfast LOVE, have mercy on us.

All: **Where we have failed to be LOVE forgive us and free us from brooding over our mistakes. Cleanse us by your mercy. Turn us around by the simple wonder of your LOVE.**

Leader: Help us to see what is really important in our lives—LOVE.

All: **Help us to receive your love so that we can love ourselves and love others.**

Leader: Help us to see who is really important in the eyes of LOVE.

All: **Help us to see the poor, the imprisoned, the ill, and the despised.**

Leader: And so Emmanuel, hear us as we pray together your prayer.

All: **Our Father… [The Lord's Prayer]**

Hymn: #110 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Voice 1: Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2–7

[Stand by the East side of the table facing the Advent wreath and say]:
We come into the circle of life through the North door and travel East. The East direction represents the beginning of new things, the rising of the sun after the long night, the birth of a new baby, waking in the morning renewed and refreshed to face another day, the dawn of spring after a long winter, light coming into the darkness. In the East we are closest to LOVE. The baby, just born, just arrived from the Creator, is closest to LOVE. Have you ever noticed how all human masks come off when they look at a baby? A baby brings out the love in us.
[Light the candle with the yellow ribbon tied to it].

Voice 2: Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

[Stand by the South side of the table facing the Advent wreath and say]:
We journey clockwise around the circle of life. The South direction represents children and youth. We grow and we learn. We seek and we discover new things. Love and trust develop. Spring turns into summer. Summer is the time to grow strong and wise and kind and brave. The south is a wonderful place of youthful innocence, of trust, and of warmth. We are still close to LOVE, the very nature of our heart.
[Light the candle with the red ribbon tied to it.]

photo: Amy MacLachlan

A worship service at Anishinabe Fellowship Centre in Winnipeg incorporates Presbyterian and Aboriginal traditions. Hymns are often sung in Cree.

Voice 3: Scripture: Colossians 3:12–17

[Stand by the West side of the table facing the Advent wreath and say]:
The West represents the middle years of our life. It is the time to incorporate all we have learned. Summer moves into fall. It is the time to cultivate and to harvest. It is also a 'looks-within-place'. The growing and learning in Christ from our earlier years leads to doing and being LOVE.
[Light the candle with the black ribbon tied to it].

Voice 4: Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:1–14

[Stand by the North side of the table facing the Advent wreath and say]:
The North represents the last years of our life. It is a time of patience and understanding. Fall gradually turns into winter. It is a time to teach and plan for the next cycle of life. The North represents the spirit of energy, the source of knowledge and wisdom, and a clear vision for the future. In the North we are again close to LOVE to whom we will soon return. Listen and learn from your elders, they have a lot to share and much to teach about LOVE.
[Light the candle with the white ribbon tied to it].

Leader: Scripture: Luke 2:1–20

[Stand by the North side of the table facing the Advent wreath and say]:
It all begins and ends with LOVE. We come from LOVE. We grow in LOVE. We live LOVE. We return to LOVE.

[Light the Christ Candle. Pick up the basket and say]:
As I bring the basket to you, take a rock with you to remind you that LOVE, like a rock, is strong, solid, unbending, everlasting, and it comes freely to us from the hand of the Creator.

Hymn: #144 T'was in the Moon of Wintertime

Closing prayer:

ALL: Amazing God, you confounded this world by coming to us as a human baby. Help us to see beyond the baby in the manger to the man that Jesus became. Help us to see beyond the man Jesus to your pure LOVE reaching out to us through him. Help us today and every day to hear your call to be LOVE as we journey through the circle of life. AMEN

Rev. Margaret Mullin is Executive Director of Winnipeg Inner City Missions, a Presbyterian ministry helping the mainly Aboriginal population in Winnipeg's violent and impoverished North end.

Listening, Learning, and

The task of the healing and reconciliation animator

By Lori Ransom

Animator

1. somebody who makes animated movies;
2. somebody or something that makes things lively, exciting, or interesting

(Encarta Dictionary)

In the 14 months since I was appointed to the position of Healing and Reconciliation Animator, responsible for leading a program of relationship-building with Aboriginal people, I have encountered many people who are interested in the word, "animator."

What was the Church thinking when it came up with that title? Perhaps producing animated films about Canadian history as it pertains to Aboriginal people, and other films about modern day concerns, would be a creative way to stimulate reflection and action in the Church. It might even be the best way to engage people's attention. But if the Church wanted animated films, it should have hired my youngest brother, James.

No, in choosing the title, "animator," the Church was looking for someone to find ways of making the subject of healing and reconciliation "lively, exciting, [and] interesting." It is a tall order. "Healing" and "reconciliation" are heavy words, especially when contrasted with the word, "animator." It sounds difficult to do. The prospect of failure seems to lurk around them. We all know of individuals who have sought to be healed and have succumbed to their illnesses. We also know of individuals who have sought to be reconciled with others, only to be disappointed, or worse, left in a state where violence prevails. Healing and reconciliation are not easy subjects to broach.

In 1994, The Presbyterian Church in Canada took a very significant step towards healing and reconciliation when it issued its Confession to Aboriginal People. The Confession states, "The Holy Spirit, speaking in and through Scripture, calls The Presbyterian Church in Canada to confession."

The Holy Spirit calls the Church. This reminds us that we are not alone in pursuing healing and reconciliation. Healing and reconciliation of relationships

Building Relationships

begins with listening—especially to those whose voices have been marginalized over the history of the relationship, the Aboriginal people. God is with us. In fact, God's spirit is moving in us to help us bring about healing and reconciliation.

The Confession states, "We understand our mission and ministry in new ways in part because of the testimony of Aboriginal people." Here we are reminded of the power of the witness of all people, including Aboriginal people, and our need to be alert to what they have to say to us.

The fundamental way in which the Church is seeking to animate healing and reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada is by encouraging its members to reach out to Aboriginal people; to meet them, to get to know them, to listen to their hopes, their dreams, their aspirations, their culture, their history, their pain, their spirituality, and their personal perspectives on healing.

At a recent meeting, an Aboriginal woman asked repeatedly, "What does the Church mean by reconciliation?"

Do we have an answer to that question?

It may not be a satisfying answer, but I would suggest the Church cannot answer that question alone. Certainly, it is easy to say that we want a better relationship than in the past. We want to ensure we are attuned to the needs of Aboriginal people in our country. We want to try to do everything we can to support Aboriginal people as our neighbours, fulfilling our Christian call to love our neighbours as ourselves. But reconciliation and healing require the input of Aboriginal people. The mistake of the Church in the past was to assume that it did not have to listen to Aboriginal voices. The Church, as a scion of the dominant society at Confederation, thought it knew what was best for Aboriginal people: residential schools, reserves, assimilation. Our confession seeks forgiveness for not listening in the past. It says, "With God's guidance our Church will seek opportunities to walk with Aboriginal people to find healing and wholeness." Only by walking *with* Aboriginal people, and listening to their perspectives, can we hope to find healing and achieve reconciliation.

Only by walking with Aboriginal people, and listening to their perspectives, can we hope to find healing

The healing and reconciliation initiative is designed to help members of the Church learn about Aboriginal people and their issues, and to reach out to and walk with them.

A modest budget is available to groups across the Church to kick-start the process of relationship-building. The Church's own Aboriginal members and ministries are keen to be leaders in this work. They have unique insights and experience working with Aboriginal people that will prove helpful in discovering how to go about the work of relationship-building.

Our ecumenical friends in KAIROS and the Anglican and United Churches are working with us to develop high profile events on the theme of healing and reconciliation. Aboriginal leaders will be invited to share in the leadership and animation of these events. The goal of these events is to inspire churches and society at large to take action to build a new relationship with Aboriginal people.

The events will also help prepare the way for a national Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Modelled on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Canadian Commission will examine the legacy of the residential schools system. It will hold hearings across the country and contribute to the process of educating society about the residential school experience, the impact of that experience on Aboriginal people, and the need for healing and reconciliation. It will allow Canadians to discover the life-altering effects the residential school system had not only on individual Aboriginal survivors of residential schools, but also on Aboriginal communities themselves.

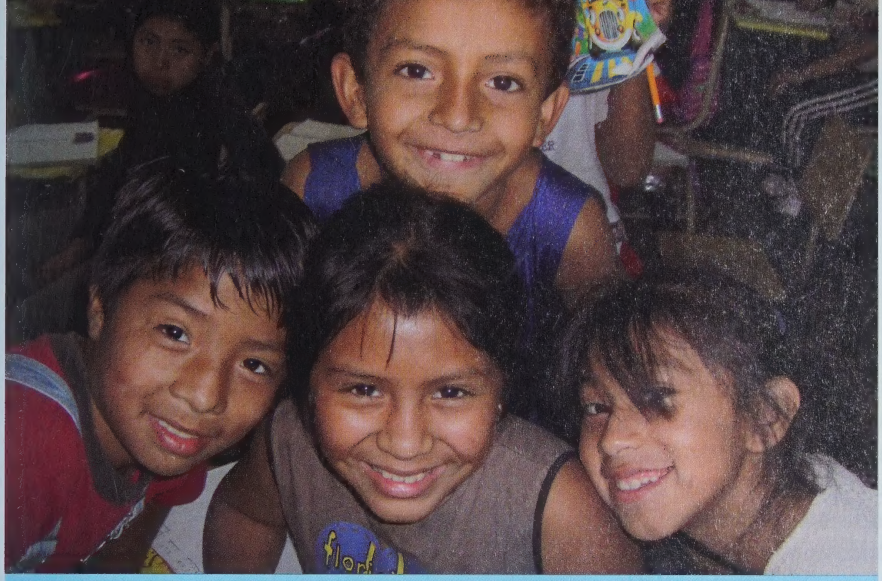
The pursuit of healing and reconciliation will live on in The Presbyterian Church in Canada after the term of the Healing and Reconciliation Animator's position ends. It is a matter of living our faith, animated by the Holy Spirit.

> "The best chief is not the one who persuades people to his point of view. It is instead the one in whose presence most people find it easiest to arrive at the truth." ~Mohawk~

Lori Ransom was appointed Healing and Reconciliation Animator for the PCC in September 2006. Her role builds on almost 20 years of public service with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Lori is a member of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation in Ontario, and is an Elder at St. Andrew's, King Street, Toronto.

photo: Keith Knight

Reprinted with permission from Women's Perspectives, *a free electronic newsletter in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. To read an issue or subscribe to* Women's Perspectives, *go to www.presbyterian.ca/mcv/wim/perspectives.*



In God's Good Time

A love for the Mayas of Guatemala leads to a life among Canada's indigenous people

By Sara Deleon

I have been invited to share with *Glad Tidings* readers a bit of my story as a Guatemalan teacher, and now as a Canadian teacher working in a small Cree community in Northern Manitoba. Two hymns quickly come to my mind: "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" and "You Who Dwell in the Shelter/ On Eagles' Wings." In many ways these hymns speak to me about my dreams and my life. They always remind me that life is not an easy journey. There is sadness, pain, danger, sorrow, and many broken dreams. However, there is also the love of God.

I was born in the hot, rainy, and fertile tropical lowlands of Guatemala known as "la Costa Sur", a predominantly agricultural and ranching area. I grew up within the *mestizo* (mixed race or Métis) culture, when the division between the indigenous people and the *mestizo* people was more evident than in present-day Guatemalan society. Consequently, my knowledge of language, customs, traditions and realities of the indigenous people of the highlands was minimal. We learned most of it at school, where unfortunately the Mayas were portrayed as an extinct race. They were considered people of the past without any thought for the thousands of Maya descendents living in the mountainous and volcanic Guatemalan highlands.

The Mayas were portrayed as an extinct race… without any thought for the thousands of Maya descendents living in the Guatemalan highlands

But I learned about indigenous people in another way. My father owned a general store near a cotton plantation. Indigenous people came down from the highlands to work as cotton-pickers, and they would visit my father's store to buy groceries. They came in groups of different families, probably because they didn't speak Spanish and needed the help of an interpreter to make their purchases. Every time they came into the store, it seemed to me that a vibrant piece of the rainbow had come in with them because of their colourful dresses. used to look at the children and thei mothers walking by the store window where I perched after my homework was done. Near the window was a mango tree and it provided for travellers a refuge against the blazing heat of the tropical sun.

One day, while perched in my favourite spot, I saw a group of women and children sitting under the mango tree. Some of the women carried sleepy babies strapped to their backs Older children were playing with colourful horses carved out of wood. The women were busy: one was getting snacks ready, others were picking debris out of pieces of cotton, yet others were gently rubbing the pieces of clean cotton between their outstretched hands. I asked my father what they were doing and he told me they were making cotton thread. I was impressed and kept asking questions. My father said native people were very creative at making fabrics. He also said it was sad they had to come down from their beautiful, cold, and quiet highlands to work the fields because it was hard on them and the kids did not go to school. "Maybe I'll be a teacher when I grow up and live in the highlands," I said. "Have faith in God and your dreams will come true," my father replied.

I watched the women work and the children enjoying their snacks and

playing, talking to each other in their own language, laughing, dressed in their beautifully colourful dresses. I was too young to understand that the seed of my desire to become a teacher had just been planted. It began to grow with a quiet love, as the love that Jesus has shown us, for a people who in a way were like me but in another way were from another world. It was a world that somehow, deep in my child's imagination, I wanted to know, to belong to and uphold.

Years later, my father opened a hardware store in a *mestizo* farming community. This place was different. There were indigenous people but they were owners, not labourers. They could speak Spanish, read and write, and were respected leaders within the business community. Among them was a man named Enrique, who was a good friend of my father. He used to tell me stories about the indigenous people, how beautiful the highlands were, as well as the difficulties they faced. He also told me he didn't like native people coming to work for the big plantations. "Work in those places is bad," he said. "The conditions of work are inhuman. People get sick from the pesticides used on cotton. The children miss school and even the heat of the tropics is hard on them. Some *mestizo* people are not nice to us. They push us aside."

He always talked with passion and a strong sense of faith and hope that some day things were going to change for native people. He helped me to understand Guatemalan social divisions and my father helped me to see myself as part of a world I hardly knew. I asked Enrique once if I was Indian. He said: "You were born *mestiza*, but I am sure you have Indian ancestors because you look like a Maya princess with curly hair." When I asked my father the same question, he answered: "You are *mestiza* but your great, great grandmother Lucita was a Quiche-Maya." Well! I thought my future was already decided.

As strong as our dreams may be, God helps us accomplish them in His way, not necessarily in ours. I graduated as a teacher, but never had the chance to live and teach in the highlands of my dreams. Instead I worked in the city in a university students' solidarity network against the violation of human rights. Because of this work, and the death of my husband, I had to leave Guatemala. I came to Canada to seek political refuge with my most precious and valuable belongings: my life, my son, the memories of my homeland, and a sense of faith and hope for a peaceful life burning strongly within my heart.

My life had changed and I had a new beginning full of surprises. One of my biggest surprises upon my arrival was a stormy January Cape Breton night. I started my new life under the care of a Presbyterian community, and I couldn't have asked for anything better than to live in the manse with the minister's family. Many years later I married a Canadian man who became

a Presbyterian minister and we moved to Winnipeg. Here we encountered a very welcoming Christian community at St. John's Presbyterian Church.

As the months went by I started looking for a job. I couldn't help but notice the shortage of teachers in First Nations communities. I discussed it with my family and later applied for a teaching position in the small community of Granville Lake. A couple weeks later and armed with books, good wishes, lots of prayers, tears, snow pants, and a down-filled jacket, I left for Granville Lake.

My arrival at this fly-in community was greeted by a crowd of curious little faces who had come to see the new teacher. One little girl gave me a bag of candies and a hug. The older kids helped carry my boxes. In spite of the cold October weather, the children were wearing light sweaters and rubber boots. Their rosy cheeks and curious brown eyes sparked memories of the children of Guatemala's highlands, and I believe our connection was established at that moment. All fears of isolation were gone. The flowers of Granville Lake were there smiling at me.

My relationship with the children has grown stronger each day. My students, following their ancestral tradition, are good story-tellers, and they tell me stories about things that have happened in their community—like the time they had a sewage problem and all the families marched out because they needed to be heard. The hardship of winter is a recurring theme. Sometimes the stories are sad, and other times they're spiced with tales of ghosts and bad spirits. When the story is too spooky we huddle together and have a cup of hot cocoa. It is then I feel very much at home because Guatemala also has a rich oral tradition filled with legend and myth.

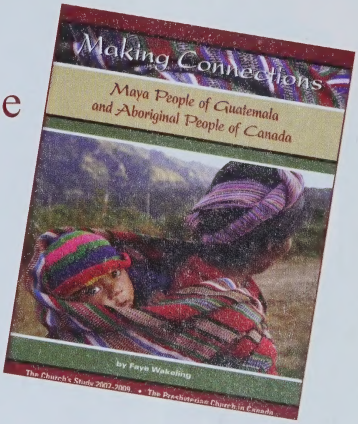
My first year working at Granville Lake has been a wonderful journey. I have watched the majestic and powerful flight of the eagles against the infinite sky. I have seen the dance of the Northern Lights that are absolutely heavenly. I have seen baby bears roam around the river bank. I have felt the excitement of riding through rapids. I have skidooed past towering snow drifts, pure and white against the bright blue sky. I have felt the geographical isolation as well as the isolation created by social differences. The children and their families have grown in my heart just as the bluebells grow around the school. From them I have learned about survival, about their way of life, their dreams and difficulties, and about myself. But more than anything, I have learned that we are all God's creation, and God's creation is beautiful and always good.

Sara Deleon is a political refugee from Guatemala who came to Canada with her son Luis in 1985, sponsored by Presbyterians in Cape Breton. She is married to Rev. Kevin MacDonald, minister in St. John's, Winnipeg. They have a daughter named Anna.

Introduction to the study resource

Making Connections:

Maya People of Guatemala and Aboriginal People of Canada


Making Connections
Maya People of Guatemala and Aboriginal People of Canada
by Faye Wakeling
The Church's Study 2007-2008 • The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Purpose of the study

This study provides an opportunity for the user to seek new understandings of how to be a church in our changing, complex world through the sharing of stories from the Maya people of Guatemala, by connecting with experiences of Aboriginal people in Canada, and in relating to our own journeys of faith and struggle. At the core of this study are biblical stories of people seeking to be builders of God's new creation and parables of Jesus turning our perceptions upside down.

How to use the study

The study is set up in six sessions that are designed to last 60–90 minutes. Further ideas to extend these sessions are also provided. Each topic is easily divided, allowing groups to increase the study's length.

Leadership is easily shared with this study. Each session can have a new leader or groups can divide each session into sections, sharing the responsibilities. Most sessions do require some preparation but all the instructions, suggestions, and activities are provided.

What's inside?

Each session begins and builds on the experiences of our Guatemala partners. Maya women and their insights and faith lead us through biblical study. Through reflection, stories, and action, we make connections with the Aboriginal people in Canada.

Session One—Trouble and Beauty: Human Rights and Empowerment

You will begin to learn about Guatemala and the Maya people in this session by

photo: Paul Jeffrey

hearing stories and learning about the struggles of mission partners. Connections are made between life in Guatemala and the challenges that face Aboriginal and marginalized peoples in Canada.

Session Two—When the Poor Ones: Poverty and Power

The purpose of this session is to learn about poverty and power in Canada and among the Maya people in Guatemala. You are asked to listen to Jesus' message to the poor and oppressed and make connections to those living in poverty today. Mission partners share stories of their work, providing hope for the future.

Session Three—God's Living Water: Water as a Sacred Gift

Through the experiences of Aboriginal peoples in Guatemala and Canada, this session focuses on water as a sacred gift, a part of God's creation. It also considers Christians' stewardship of, and our responsibility for, the world's water crisis.

Session Four—O Great Spirit: Spirituality

This session introduces Maya and Canadian Aboriginal spirituality and reflects on the encounter between Aboriginal and Christian spirituality. It invites us to consider how encounters with other spiritualities may change us.

Session Five—Teach Me God: Ways of Learning and Knowing
First, you will recognize how informal learning has contributed to your identity in this session. Then you will reflect on the significance of non-formal learning and oral traditions in the continuation of cultural identity for Aboriginal peoples in Guatemala and Canada. Lastly, this session will consider the educational needs of all people in order to promote personal and community development.

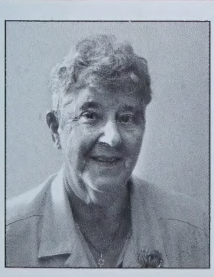
Session Six—May the God of Hope: Solidarity and Hope
The study concludes with a session devoted to solidarity and hope. It focuses on the meaning of spirituality and provides hope through the faithful witness of our Aboriginal partners. It challenges us to act in solidarity with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters in Guatemala and Canada.

Suggestions
Representatives from almost every synodical participated in an exposure tour to Guatemala. Think about having a conversation with that person to get firsthand experiences or invite them to a meeting so they can share their trip with you.

Many WMS members have also volunteered, worked, or spent time in many of the Aboriginal centres or programs supported by The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Have members share their experiences or better yet, see if you can visit and learn about these centres and programs in your area.

Think about sharing this study with your congregation. You can host a mission night using a full session, introduce the study to your youth group, or use the amazing photos and post the information you have learned each week on a bulletin board.

Making Connections *is written by Faye Wakeling and produced by The Presbyterian Church in Canada with contributions from the WMS. The study is available for $12 from The Book Room.*



WMS President's Itinerary
Druse Bryan

October 27	Quebec and Eastern Ontario Synodical, Almonte, Ont.
November 4–7	Life and Mission Agency Committee, Crieff Hills, Ont.
November 25–27	Assembly Council, Crieff Hills, Ont.

Giving More Than Sight to the Blind

Stories of a student-led mission in Romania

By Zsolt Jari

Theological students at the Protestant Theological Institute in Cluj, Romania, are involved in a variety of different mission projects: mission for the homeless, the sick, social work with the elderly, and a mission that is close to my heart, a mission for blind children.

In the autumn of 2003, theological student Lorand Muller wondered how he might see the world in a different light. He was inspired into action after meeting some blind children during his high school studies. Lorand is now in his fourth year at the Theological Institute, and despite some initial difficulties, this mission work is now in place. With God's help, Andras Csukui and I helped Muller realize his dream to create an outreach program for blind children.

There are only three special schools for blind people in Romania—we are lucky that one of them is in Cluj. These schools, however, have no programs for minority Hungarian children to learn in their mother tongue. These Hungarian children take their classes in Romanian, the national language. There are no Hungarian classes and no religion classes—Protestant or Roman Catholic.

Most students board at the school, away from their home and families. They rarely go home during the academic

year. They crave love, special attention, care, and a person in whom they can trust. In our mission, we try to be role models, mentors, parent-figures, friends, and teachers.

It's not easy for us, because in order to gain perspective, we also strive to imagine what the world would be like without sight. It's totally different...and sometimes more beautiful than the "real" world.

Every week we teach a group of 10 multi-denominational Hungarian children who are between the ages of seven and 16 years. On Tuesdays, we hold an ecumenical Bible class in which we read the Holy Scripture, tell stories, ask for children's opinions about a given topic, and sing Christian songs and folk music. We base our musical education on the experiences we have from being members of Brian Johnston's choir. Each month, we hold a Hungarian literature class as well.

It's a magnificent feeling when we see they are relaxed and having a good time

We also make time to play games and sometimes provide help with their English homework. When a problem occurs involving their classmates or friends, they honour us with their trust and we listen.

Every Saturday afternoon, we organize free time activities. We have attended the theatre and an opera gala, and sometimes we play in the city parks and playgrounds. We have also visited the botanical gardens, and we have gone boating after having pizza or cake. In bad weather we plan indoor activities, such as clay making, listening to music, cooking, and watching television. It's a magnificent feeling when we see they are relaxed and having a good time.

This December, we had a Christmas performance for students and staff at the Theological Institute and others who were interested in our work. The children put on a musical show and we invited an actor from the local puppet theatre to participate. At the end, an angel came and gave presents to the children who had behaved well during the year. The youngest child was reluctant to let the angel go, because she was worried about the angel's ability to fly! The whole evening was truly blessed.

We plan to continue our work throughout the year and our goal for next summer is to organize a children's camp in the mountains.

We give thanks to God for what we have been able to achieve and we ask for your prayerful support in helping us realize our future ambitions for this wonderful work.

Zsolt Jari and Andras Csukui are 2nd year students at the Protestant Theological Institute in Cluj, Romania. They are active members of the male choir directed by Brian Johnston. Brian's work is sponsored by International Ministries.

Mission in Action

Ian and Linda Shaw
Skeldon Presbyterian Manse
Corriverton, Guyana

Plus Ça Change...

Except for the now expected parting pain, our return in early July was fairly smooth. Ian's carry-on luggage was a tad heavy, but was approved. The barbeque grill he was carrying did cause the security folk a little concern and some consternation, but even that went smoothly. All in all, it was a good trip on the plane. The line-ups at immigration were so slow that all our baggage was sitting waiting for us when we got out! We went through customs faster than Ian—almost as fast as Ian loaded our luggage on a cart. No questions. No checking. Just a nod and we're through. I guess putting that white wig on Linda, applying make-up to emphasize the wrinkles, and dressing her in black made us seem harmless. In no time, we were at our friend's house to pick up our vehicle. We got to the manse by 7:15 p.m. and after a little unpacking and a little chatting with the men's group, we sacked out early.

Our lives and everything in them are known by one, who not only knows the number of hairs on our head, but also the actual colour of every one of them

Back to life in Guyana—water problems at home, additional ferry stories, power outages (every Tuesday and Thursday all day, and two or three shorter ones every week), and more chapters in the saga of the van. One actually learns (a little anyway) to prepare for interruptions as much as possible, and not get thrown by them. However, acceptance isn't an option. We have become phone pests and we encourage others to become more active and less passive. (Few do—decades of being marginalized do great damage to one's spirit.)

Mostly though, we learn to appreciate the everyday gifts: the sunrise at 5:30 that makes the bedroom less conducive to sleep, good food and a good cook, that first cup of coffee, battery backup for lights and the Internet, and above all, the awareness that our lives and everything in them are known by one, who not only knows the number of hairs on our head, but also the actual colour of every one of them.

Since our return, our days have been quite full. We had a successful Vacation Bible School at Massiah, a good joint-service at the beach, lots of planning for our youth barbecue, the Youth in Mission team visit, youth camp, and a presbytery workshop on eldership. Wherever we go, we find

that working and growing with people continues to be our chief delight (and occasionally, a distress).

Since our return, our overall impression is that life here has deteriorated for most folk. The VAT (value added tax) of 16 per cent has increased the cost of living for everyone significantly. It is most notable in the price of chicken and flour which are supposed to be exempt. This cost has increased, however, because essentials in the process (e.g., chicken feed) are taxed. Underemployment or poor pay has caused many to look for work elsewhere. Just yesterday, a key member of our Massiah congregation and his son left to work in Trinidad. Two young men from Skeldon have been working there for months. The pain of separation from family and the loss of people resources challenge those who remain behind. Imagine a quarter of your session suddenly leaving and you'll get a sense of the impact on the Massiah church.

While there is evidence of some positive change, I am reminded of Jeremiah's indictment of the officials of his day—"They cry 'Peace, Peace' when there is no Peace." As you pray for the leaders in your own land, remember those here.

Down Under?

First, a caveat: I may repeat something you've already heard. If so, chalk it up to early senility or effective preaching 101. Now to the title. Normally for those of us in the northern hemisphere, July/August is slower—a time for vacation, longer, lingering evenings, and special events. Maybe when summer lasts 12 months a year that pattern never happens, but certainly this was one of our busiest summers yet.

Beginning near the end, August saw the arrival of the YIM team from Canada. Six excellent young adults, but only one male. Way too typical in the life of the church these days! They covered Canada from coast to coast, though the Atlantic formed half of the members. On Aug. 1 we headed into G-town to meet them. The next morning they arrived still smiling and eager, and we loaded up the van and wagon and headed for the stelling (dock). We only had to wait for one ferry and so arrived in Skeldon in daylight for an easy settle into the retreat centre across the road.

The next day was spent touring and getting prepared for V.B.S., concerts and youth camp. Ian spent most of the time shuttling the van for repairs and

Overseas Staff Birthdays

February

19 - Jae Lee, South Korea

21 - Bill McKelvie, Pakistan

March

31 - Michael Tai, Taiwan

getting materials required for the fundraising barbeque on Saturday. The team also connected with some of the youth group who were getting everything set up. Saturday was more of the same—Linda and the team getting everything sorted, assigned and rehearsed, Ian overseeing the barbeque. On Saturday evening, we did a concert at Skeldon—songs, skits, group singing, and testimony. On Sunday, several team members assisted with worship. Then we took a trip to the beach for a short swim and the team visited various families for supper.

On Monday, the pattern changed. It was time to put the prep work into action. Down the road to Port Mourant for a one-day VBS and then a concert further on at Albion. Tuesday was more VBS in the day and assisting with English as a Second Language class with the Chinese workers on the estate. Wednesday was light—only VBS in the a.m. and p.m. and some pastoral visits in the later p.m. Thursday was the same as Wednesday with the evening dedicated to packing up. Much laundry was squeezed in during the day on Wednesday and Thursday.

On Friday, the venue changed. We loaded up the van with everyone's luggage, packed 14 into a rental bus by 6:00 a.m. and headed west. Camp Goshen, here we come! Again a one-ferry wait but a few exchanges between vehicles. The hot back seat of the rental, combined with the rapid weaving around various obstacles on the road necessitated the transfer of a couple of YIMers to the air-conditioned van. We made good time to G-town so were able to tour a bit before heading to Vreed'n Hoop church for an overnight. That evening, two car loads of camp supplies arrived at the church. On Saturday at 6:00 a.m. (we've already eaten), a small truck arrives and all the supplies and our luggage are loaded up and we follow in two rental buses.

At the dock, all these materials are unloaded, then reloaded on a ferry. It was scheduled to leave at 8:00 a.m. We leave at 9:00! It is jammed with us (about 100) and an equal number of other passengers and vehicles and goods. No one gets much sleep. Many don't even find a seat! At 2:30 p.m. we arrive at Camp Goshen and proceed to off-load all our supplies and luggage (think bucket brigade). About 30 minutes later, we are heading to the cabins. Cabins with beds! A quick lunch and a swim, and camp is on.

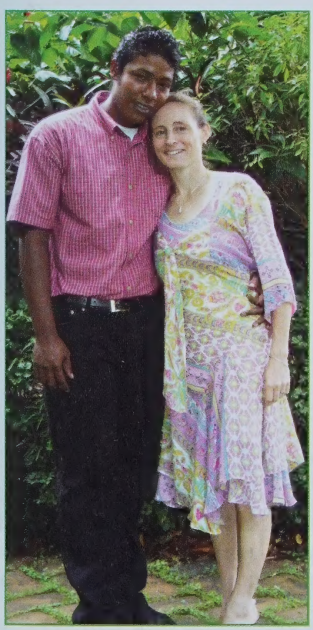
We had lots of responsibilities—leading singing, evening programs, group discussions, and interest groups. On most nights, lights out was between 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., and rise and shine was at 5:30 a.m., so sleep was never in abundance. So when 5:00 a.m. came on the 19th and we began to haul ourselves and our stuff down to the pier for the 6:30 ferry, fatigue was quite evident. However, by 3:00 that day we had said

our farewells to the other campers and were finding our beds at the Bible College. Linda made grilled cheese sandwiches for supper and that little touch of Canadiana was relished!

Monday was a touristy day, then by early Tuesday morning it was off to the airport. We gave our final hugs and headed for the van, along with four neighbours who were also sending off folk at the airport. A few errands in G-town and it was off to the Rosignol stelling. Only a two ferry wait and by 4:00 p.m. and exhausted, we were home. The next day was dedicated to housework and yard work and half of the latest *Harry Potter* movie.

When we arrived in Guyana back in July, there was much work waiting. The usual parish work for Ian—worship, Bible studies, visiting, session, a joint service at the beach, plus the news that his role at camp had doubled as some other leaders were no longer coming and there were a few unexpected items from presbytery and synod. Linda had the VBSes begin three days after our return and a host of details regarding arrangements for the YIM team to finalize. As I said above, it felt like we were 'down under' with the seasons reversed.

Nonetheless, except for some residual tiredness and the realization that such a pace doesn't lead to wholeness in life, this summer was very good. VBS at Massiah in July went very well with lots of shared leader-



Denise vanWissen, International Ministries' missionary to Guatemala, recently married Nelson Zúniga, a Nicaraguan national.

The small wedding ceremony was held at the beautiful KAIROS Center in Nicaragua on Aug. 24. Among the guests were representatives from the Presbyterian Church in Nicaragua. The newlyweds honeymooned at a lagoon and beach in Nicaragua.

Denise and Nelson met several years ago in Ocotal. Nelson enjoys his work in dry-walling, and loves sports, especially basketball. The couple has set up home in Guatemala. Denise recently re-located from Nicaragua to Guatemala where she continues to work as a nutrition specialist with the Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas (FPM).

ship. We made almost $35,000 on the barbeque. Nine youth from our parish attended camp (about 10 per cent of the total in attendance). The YIM team experienced the presence of God and perhaps even made some lifelong discoveries about trust. The Albion concert was a delightful blend of gifts from the parish and the team. Camp was a relatively smooth and happy event. Except for the last couple of days, all the YIMers remained healthy. The kids had a very positive VBS experience.

And spiritually speaking we are not down under!

Ian Shaw
Skeldon Presbyterian Manse
Upper Corentyne, Guyana

Two Women

There is no mistaking either of the two ladies in this little vignette for the Sophia Loren of the 1960 Italian film, *Two Women*—even though all three live a borderline impoverished life. The two women in my parish show the wear and tear of that perpetual shortage of this world's goods. You may have met both of these ladies before, certainly my wife Linda has written about Sister N., and may even have submitted a picture of her to one of our church's publications. Today in a period of 90 minutes I visited with both ladies. Let me share a sound bite or two with you.

First, a bit of background. I met both of these ladies in the space of 15 minutes on my second night in Skeldon. We were out carolling the 'north' half of the congregation and the lorry stopped outside what could have been the cow shed of the Nativity. We sang a carol and then an old-looking couple (it was dark) appeared and started to make their way to the roadside. I was hustled down to meet Brother S. and Sister I. We were introduced, spoke briefly, and then re-boarded. As we bounced along I learned their one-level home used to be an upstairs and a downstairs but the bottom level had given way and they now lived in the collapsed and somewhat shored-up former upper level. The very next stop was Sister N.'s. Here we trooped off the lorry and entered the home's ground floor. The

Despite many personal hardships, Sister N.'s faith has grown through the *Book of Praise*—a gift from Ian Shaw.

bottom of this "house" had a dirt floor, now muddy due to all the rain. After a couple of carols and while refreshments were served, I was hustled upstairs to meet Sister N. She was a large lady who had broken her ankle and foot but nothing had healed well and she was limited to limping around the house. We prayed with and for her and continued on the carolling tour.

A month later, Sister N.'s husband suddenly died. Ten months later her eldest grandson, age 12, was killed in an accident. A few months ago I gave her a large print copy of the 1972 *Book of Praise*. Today I stopped by. As I made my way to the back part of the house, I noticed the hymnbook lying on her bed. Not long into our conversation, Sister N. told me how helpful and wonderful she was finding all the prayers in the book I had given to her. I mentally ran a check on what book of prayers that might have been. Then I realized it was the *Book of Praise*. These hymns were shaping and guiding her prayer life—and nurturing her faith. She repeatedly affirmed her confidence that God was going to strengthen her ankle and foot so she could once again enter His sanctuary, worship with God's people and be taught His word. I was humbled by the encounter. She confided that sometimes she doesn't always understand the words, but what she does grasp feeds her spirit.

Then I was moved once more as she picked up the hymnbook from her bed. I opened it to #548, "New Every Morning" (#815 in the current book). She then took it and, drawing on her school days when the Guyana Presbyterian Church operated many schools, sang it to me exactly as the melody was written. What she had learned long ago continues to stay rooted in her heart and all the setbacks of the past several years have not diminished her faith. As I left I realized the expense of shipping those castaway praise books was worth it for the way it is enriching Sister N.'s faith.

A minute later I was at Sister I.'s borderline hovel. She hobbled out to meet me, let me in, and shooed the dogs away. Inside she talked about the severe pain she is experiencing. Sister I. has arthritis and the doctor has labelled it chronic. The pain pills help

Sister I. prays for the day when she will be able to attend church again. Severe arthritis often keeps her confined to her home.

but play havoc with her stomach. As we sit in the midst of so little, what is Sister I.'s main concern? Her malady is preventing her from attending church. And what is her focus? Confidence that God will extend his mercy and make her well enough to be present with the congregation on Sunday. I don't know which challenges me more—her passion to be able to attend worship or her confidence in God in the midst of incredible hardship.

From one angle this is indeed simple faith. Our two sisters are not

Bringing Education to 'Dump City'

A PWS&D special appeal

By Barb Summers

The children of Guatemala's Francisco Coll school are surrounded by poverty but their voices speak of a new kind of future. Jennifer, with her black hair in ponytails, says she wants to be a nurse when she grows up. Ricardo wants to be a fireman. Erica wants to be a teacher at the school.

Supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development, the Francisco Coll School is located next to Guatemala City's dump in an impoverished urban setting. The school provides a safe learning environment for more than 300 children from grades 1–6 who live in one of the most desolate areas of the country. Many of their parents and family members work in the dump, collecting recyclable containers, wood and other items to resell, or materials to use in their own homes. For many children in this area, working in the dump is the only future they have.

But the Francisco Coll School offers hope for the future. Most of these children would never have had access to an education because school materials, uniforms, and fees are too expensive. But at Francisco Coll, students are provided with access to education, all necessary school materials, and a daily snack. Children at the school who suffer from emotional problems are provided with access to an on-site counsellor, who provides personal attention to their needs. Scholarships are provided for

very knowledgeable about even the basics found in the Apostles' Creed, and their reading and speaking skills are not highly developed. From another angle their confidence and trust is worthy of a statement such as Jesus made in Luke 7:9: "...I have not found such great faith even in Israel [or in me or in...?]" Today was truly one of those times when the visitor received and the visited gave.

Ian Shaw celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination on Sept. 12.

students who excel at their studies to help them continue their education at a higher level.

Many of the children's parents are unable to read or write. The school offers afternoon tutorials for parents who would like to learn these skills and better their own futures. Some parents are encouraged to take part in counselling sessions as well, learning how to modify their behaviours, control violence, and talk about personal goals.

Rosa is a single mother living in the 'Dump City' with her three children. Rosa works at the dump and struggles to provide for her family. "Often I live only by the grace of God," she explains. "Literacy for my children is very important to me. I can't even sign my own name but I want it to be different for them."

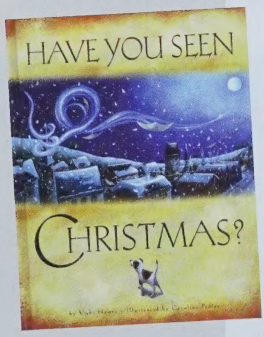
Students at the school have undergone remarkable changes. Emiliana has been a teacher at the school for 12 years. "The children are my motivation to stay here. They are very special people," she says. "The children often feel helpless in their surroundings but the school encourages them so they can go on and become professionals. I want to thank the Canadians who support this program."

You can help support the Francisco Coll School and provide a way for children to escape a life in the dump. Please visit www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd or call 1-800-619-7301, ext. 291.

Presbyterian World Service & Development is the official development, relief and refugee agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Barb Summers is PWS&D's communications coordinator. Photos taken by Alex Macdonald, PWS&D.

Reviews

***Have You Seen Christmas?* Vicki Howie, illustrated by Caroline Pedler, Bible Reading Fellowship, $15.95**



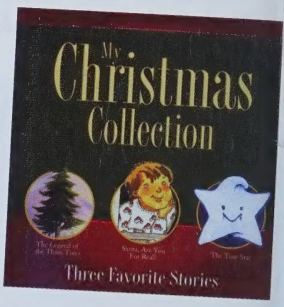
I've read a lot of children's books, especially Christmas books, but this book shot up to my top five in one reading. It is a lovely little story about a street person named Luke who has a little dog named Christmas.

Christmas is a scruffy, loveable mutt who goes off one December morning in search of the smell of sausages, and Luke asks his two friends Benny and Mia to look for Christmas as they are around the town.

They ask many people, "Have you seen Christmas?" and get the usual answers, but Christmas is found in the place to be expected. Where is that? You'll have to read it to find out.

This wonderful story is illustrated by the beautiful and whimsical paintings by Caroline Pedler. It would make a great Christmas gift for people of any age who appreciate a good Christmas story.

***My Christmas Collection: Three Favourite Stories,* Thomas Nelson, $11.95**



This hard-bound collection of Christmas stories is sure to delight the whole family. All three stories are classics, and remind us of the real "Reason for the Season". Each story is reproduced here with its own original art and is presented in a beautiful, gilt-edged, gift edition.

The Three Trees is based on a folk story that teaches children that God's plans may be bigger and better than your own dreams— a lesson modeled by three trees that take part in significant moments in the life of Jesus. *Santa, Are You Real?* teaches children about Saint Nicholas and his love for Jesus as his motivation for giving secret gifts, and *The Tiny Star* is a story about a little star named Starlet who plays a big role in the Christmas story.

This book is sure to become part of your favourite Christmas collection, as you will read it over and over again.

THE Book Room

The Book Room
50 Wynford Drive,
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 1-800-619-7301
bookroom@presbyterian.ca

Forward in Faith

The Women's Missionary Society continues to financially assist the work of Dr. Richard Allen in the area of HIV/AIDS education in Kenya, East Africa.

Dr. Allen reports "within Kenyan society, pastors are in a position of great influence. Pastors who have the correct knowledge and attitude towards the HIV/AIDS problem can make a real difference in the effectiveness of how society approaches the issue."

After completing the one-week HIV/AIDS course:

- Pastors take away a good understanding of the different aspects of the HIV/AIDS issue making them able to speak out appropriately on the disease in the different settings they operate.
- Changes of attitude in pastors towards HIV/AIDS-infected individuals and the role of the condom in HIV prevention is remarkable.
- The HIV/AIDS Trainer of Trainers participants working within parishes where their ministers have attended the HIV/AIDS course report that the pastors are very supportive as they carry out their training activities in the church and the community.

Dr. Rick Allen, WMS executive director Sarah Kim, WMS president Druse Bryan, Agnes Mothaly and Joseph Mothaly. Joseph works with Rick on an HIV/AIDS project in Kenya.

Allen said the HIV/AIDS program plans to offer another course for 30 pastors next year. Approximately 50 per cent will be selected from the Presbyterian Church of East Africa and 50 per cent from other denominations.

At the meeting of the Council Executive in mid-September, the Women's Missionary Society approved a gift for Dr. Allen's program from the legacy account in the amount of $11,000. Without the legacies left to the WMS, support for this program and many others would not be available in 2008.

Wilma Welsh, Treasurer

Synodical

The **Saskatchewan** provincial women's spring gathering was held on Saturday, June 2 at McKercher Drive Presbyterian Church in Saskatoon. Our theme for the day was "Building Bridges…The Pathway to Healing." Dineke Kraay led the opening worship.

One of our guest speakers was Ursula Wiig, chaplain at the University of Saskatchewan. She spoke about her work with Aboriginal students. The other guest speaker was Rev. Stewart Folster of Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. He spoke of his store-front mission and the sandwich program supported by Presbyterian churches in Saskatoon. Both speakers challenged us to think about building bridges with Aboriginal people.

The women who registered enjoyed a day of singing, Bible study, discussion, lunch, and fellowship. Diana Sinden led the closing worship.

Bernice Shih

Presbyterial

The **Barrie** Presbyterial held its annual meeting on May 15 at Elmvale Presbyterian Church. Our theme was "Strength for the Journey" from Isaiah 40:31 with Arlene Onuoha as our guest speaker. She spoke of her mission work in Nigeria, and encouraged us to "practise what we preach and draw others in."

The group praised the synodical reports, and hope for a meeting in Bermuda in the near future. Ruth Kolkea gave a comforting memorial for WMS friends now with the Lord. Rev. Sarah Kim installed officers for the upcoming year, Irene Boyes led the music, and Dorothy Ruddell hosted the book table. Jill Pardy entertained the ladies as she led the courtesies in rhyme, and Rev. Margaret Robertson gave the closing benediction.

Jill Pardy

The **Edmonton Peace–River** Presbyterial gathered at First Presbyterian Church in Edmonton on Saturday, June 23. Special speakers were Dr. Christine Botchway Williams and her husband John, MP for St. Albert, Alta. Christine was instrumental in forming Women Influencing Nations, a group of women and other exceptional leaders that work with women and youth whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS. They work to influence youth in Africa through educational support and mentoring and to support women raising their children in a way that will positively impact nations.

John founded Parliamentarians Against Corruption and spoke on the need for responsible government in the developing world. They both showed great concern for the people of Africa and other poor nations.

Marjorie Scott gave a moving memorial remembering three greatly missed members of our presbyterial—Catherine Elson, Margaret Wilson, and Virginia Pearson. The officers for the coming year were installed by Ann Patterson. A short business session followed a delicious lunch. The 20 participants came away with an enlightened understanding of the youth in Rwanda and the corruption found in developing countries.

The annual meeting of the **North Saskatchewan** Presbyterial was held on Saturday, March 23. Our theme, "Some Women Accompany Jesus," was based on Luke 8:1–3. President Yoka deBruijn welcomed everyone. Isabell Bannister and Margaret Mazurkewich led the singing, and Jennifer Bell, regional staff person for Saskatchewan, led opening worship.

Guest speaker Alexis McKeown spoke of her mission trip to Guatemala with stories and pictures. The photos helped us visualize the difficult and impoverished conditions in which people survive. We enjoyed a time of fellowship over lunch.

In the afternoon, after a time of singing, Yoka deBruijn led prayer and constituted the business part of the meeting. Alexis McKeown installed the new executive officers for the coming year and Rev. Amanda Currie led us in closing worship and communion.

On June 21, **Essex-Kent** Presbyterial held its meeting at Erie Glen Manor, a retirement residence in Leamington, Ont. The theme for the day was, "Reaching Out in Love" through our mission projects. We were honoring the residents from the manor who helped with our knitting, and two of the ladies, Elsie Robinson and Hazel Casey, joined our gathering.

The Margaret Strang Auxiliary gave the devotions and after a few necessary reports, we began the fun part. All groups mentioned their ways of "doing for missions" and everyone got some new ideas.

After a very nice lunch prepared by the residence staff and a sing song, the

(L–R) Beverely Hays, Lois Cavers, Margie Tofflemire (guest), Joyce Paterson, Dorothy Peacock, Mary Blokker (guest), Murial McLachlin, Marsella Thuy (guest), Muriel Brown, and Mae Bowan ready their knitted items for packaging at the Essex-Kent Presbyterial. Kneeling and counting the blankets is Barb Root.

ladies sorted the knitting and readied it for packaging. We packed 44 blankets, 64 vests, and 19 hats plus two finger puppets. Two packages were sent to David Gordon Hospital and one to Ekwendeni Hospital in Malawi. A bundle of blankets was also sent to Anishinabe Place of Hope in Winnipeg.

Our next fellowship time will be at St. Andrew's in Dresden. Thank you to Carolyn Reid for organizing our very nice get together in Leamington. We closed our gathering with prayer and some ladies headed to the deck for ice cream cones.

Frances Monk

Each year in mid-September, **East Toronto** Presbyterial organizes a workshop to introduce the mission study provided by the W.M.S. for use in our local groups.

Willowdale Presbyterian Church hosted this event on Sept. 12, 2007, with Rev. Lynda Reid, an education consultant with the synod, providing the leadership.

This year's study resource is titled "Making Connections: Maya People of Guatemala and Aboriginal People of Canada". Lynda highlighted each of the six sessions, with the assistance of some of the other women present, pointing out how flexible and easy to use this mission-oriented study is.

This was a very interesting and informative meeting and everyone was encouraged to plan to use it in their own groups.

Our president, Doris McAndless, thanked Lynda Reid for her very helpful presentation and the Willowdale group for its hospitality.

Eleanor Keith

Special auxiliary members Geoff Johnston and Arthur Bradford join Helen Green, Betty Shriner Mary Lou Johnston, Ethel Ricker, and guest speaker Arlene Onuoha in Dunnville in June.

Doris Holt received a Life Membership Certificate and pin on Dec. 11, 2006, at the Christmas meeting of the Margaret Hamilton Auxiliary WMS. The pin had belonged to a member of the Ellen Douglas Auxiliary WMS, a group that disbanded several years ago. The honour was presented by Doris Binding, who was the last president of the Ellen Douglas Auxiliary.

In Memoriam

Elsie Jane Embree–Wharren

Elsie Jane Embree–Wharren (née Wharren) passed away peacefully on June 27, 2007, at the age of 89. She will be lovingly remembered by her children Maynard (Susan) Embree, Karenne (Alan) Hartley, and Karelle (Craig) Broyles, and her grandchildren Christopher, Matthew (Amy), Johanna (Curtis), Megan, Rebecca, Nathaniel, Nathan and Stephen.

Elsie was born in Baraca, Atla., to Forrest and Eva Wharran. She is survived by brothers Harvey and Ivan Wharran, and many nieces and nephews. Elsie was a mother and homemaker, missionary, and ESL teacher in Hong Kong (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada) and Taiwan (The Presbyterian Church in Canada) with her husband Rev. Bernard L. M. Embree. Upon her return to Canada she completed a B.A. at Simon Fraser University.

Elsie loved laughter, music, and the company of friends and family over a cup of tea. A free spirit, her travels took her all over the world.

Margaret (Peggy) MacDougall, 1921–2007

The apostle Paul referred to Phoebe and said she was "a helper of many" (Romans 16:2). She was essential to the life and work of the early church.

Peggy was a "helper of many" during her years of dedicated service as Book Room manager of the Women's Missionary Society. In that capacity she served the Lord with enthusiasm, excellence, and energy, and with a fully committed heart. She greeted customers with a pleasant smile, an encouraging word, or listening ear. Peggy's attentiveness to customers transformed ordinary exchanges into acts of service, which yielded lasting impact. Peggy learned to "walk as Jesus did" in her communication, her thinking, and behaviour. She recognized the value of each person (both friend and coworker), treating everyone with gentleness and respect.

Peggy's deep personal faith in God revealed itself in a way she testified to with her life. Her character, conduct, and conversation matched who she was in Christ. She left behind powerful, penetrating, and life-changing influences on others, not only in Canada, but also in England where she and her husband, Rev. Dr. Goodwill MacDougall, moved after their retirement.

There she continued to serve the Lord with all humility.

Peggy's outreach also extended into the community where she made herself available to those who were in need of a helping hand. At the neighbourhood seniors' centre she chatted with the elderly people and prepared and served refreshments. She also accompanied Goodwill whenever he conducted services at homes for seniors.

Peggy peacefully passed into the presence of her Saviour. A service of thanksgiving for Peggy's life was held on Feb. 6, 2007, at Poulton Methodist Church, Poulton-le-Flyde, Lancashire.

Peggy was a loving, supportive wife to Goodwill and a caring mother to Marilyn.

God gives us His best. Peggy put forth no less in return.

CORRECTIONS

Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs is Area Education Consultant for the Synod of SW Ontario, not "of Erskine Presbyterian Church, Hamilton" as stated on page 31 of the July/August issue of *Glad Tidings*.

The PCC has worked in Taiwan since 1872, not 1972, as our September/October issue stated on page 23.

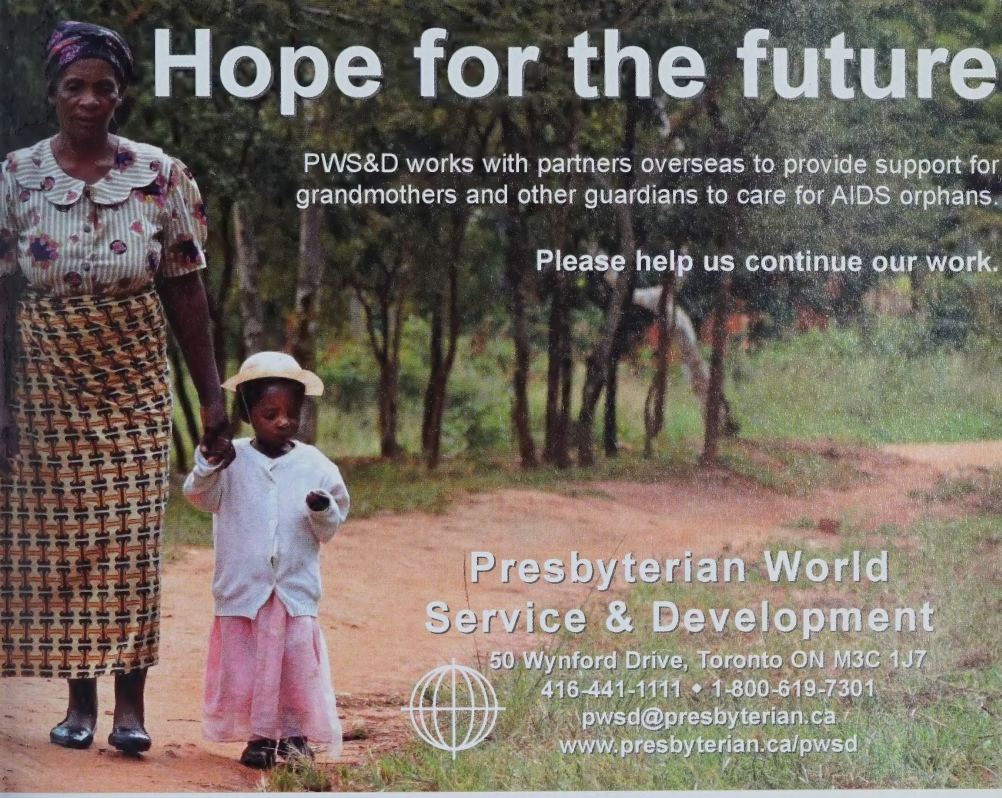
CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

Hopefully by now your group will have returned the *Glad Tidings* list of subscribers for your congregation. Have you renewed your *Glad Tidings* subscription for another year? Did you check your address to ensure it is complete? These lists were due by Nov. 1 so changes/deletions/additions can be done for the January/February 2008 issue. The subscription price for 2008 will be $13.00 and we accept payment by credit card or cheque.

If your group has not returned the list of subscribers or has been disbanded, please return this list to our office as soon as possible. We need this information to make the appropriate adjustments.

With Christmas coming, have you considered purchasing an extra subscription for a friend or family member? We are always thinking of ways to increase the number of subscribers, which is why we all need to promote the magazine. Over the years this column has offered helpful tips on how to promote *Glad Tidings*. If you have any ideas, please send them to me and I will include them in this column. Contact me at 1-800-619-7301 ext. 326.


Hope for the future
PWS&D works with partners overseas to provide support for grandmothers and other guardians to care for AIDS orphans.
Please help us continue our work.
Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 • 1-800-619-7301
pwsd@presbyterian.ca
www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

IN REMEMBRANCE

Dawn Crawford
Trinity, Hamilton, Ont.

Mrs. Gert Currie
Mrs. Edna Myers
Knox, Woodstock, Ont.

Mrs. Wilbur (Rita) Gottschalk
Knox, Tiverton, Ont.

Mrs. Margaret Jamieson
St. Andrew's, Nanaimo, B.C.

Margaret McKane
Union, Halton Hills, Ont.

Gladys Mair
Knox, Dundas, Ont.

Peggy Raphael
West Point Grey, Vancouver, B.C.

Evelyn Smith
Weston, Toronto, Ont.

Dorothy Smith
St. Andrew's, Hillsburgh, Ont.

Mary Elizabeth Stout
St. Andrew's, Belleville, Ont.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son...

None of us leaves this life without having given everything away – to someone, somewhere.

The only question for us is this: to whom do we want to bequeath the wealth God has entrusted to us?

God changed the world through God's planned gift. Our planned gifts can help change the world, too.
A gift annuity can provide seed money for a new youth ministry and extra income for you and your spouse as long as you live. A gift of stock given directly to the church can save lives through PWS&D's relief work while simultaneously increasing the tax benefits to you.

Contact the Planned Giving Office,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada,
to learn how your gifts can make a lasting difference.
1-800-619-7301, plannedgiving@presbyterian.ca
www.presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving

Planting seeds of hope. For generations to come.

PM40013283 R9517

Please report any errors/changes in address